


















*Chamaraja Wodeyar X.*

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Author: Shama Rao, M.

Title: Modern Mysore

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DEDICATED

to the revered memory of

CHAMARAJA WODEYAR X, Mahareja of Mysore,

who first made the experiment of a constitutional  
form of Government for an Indian State a success, and

in the hands of whose son

HIS HIGHNESS KRISHNARAJA WODEYAR IV,

the present MAHARAJA,

it has received great development.





## PREFACE.

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In this volume is comprehended the story of modern Mysore from 1868 to the present time. If Bowring came back to life and took a survey of Mysore, it would not be far from truth to say that he would find the Mysore Administration developed more largely on the British model than when he left the country. Similarly, if Sir James Gordon revisited the earth, he would find that what was regarded in his time as only an experiment in constitutional government in the hands of Indians is no more so, but has practically established itself as a successful reality, though not in the exact form generally associated with it in other countries. It is true that the expression 'Constitutional Government' has not the same meaning in Mysore as it has, for instance, in England. This constitutional government in Mysore cannot be attributed to any struggle between the sovereigns of the country and its people, but is the outcome of a spontaneous desire on the part of Chamaraja Wodeyar X, the first Ruler of Mysore after the Rendition in 1881, and of his son and successor the present Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, to share the responsibilities of government with the people of the State. Whether in taxation or legislation or in any important administrative measure, the people may be said to possess an effective voice to influence the final decisions of Government. Rarely are the wishes of the representatives of the people as expressed in the two constitutional assemblies—the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council—are overridden, unless the ministers of the Maharaja can place a clearly convincing case before His Highness. The ministers themselves being generally the inhabitants of the State and being affected by the operations of any measure that may be introduced in the same manner as the rest of the people, few occasions arise for radical differences of opinion between them and the people to cause embarrassment to the sovereign who, in the existing political circumstances of the country, cannot divest himself of the final voice with which he is invested. A perusal of the chapters of this volume will

confirm the truth of this statement. These happy results, it must be acknowledged, are as much due to the care bestowed on and the solicitude evinced in the imparting of suitable education and proper political training to their wards Chamaraja Wodeyar X and Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV by the British Government during the period of their minority, as to the naturally good instincts possessed by these two rulers. It may also be noted that the value of the experiment of a constitutional form of government in Mysore transcends the limits of the State, as the hope expressed by the Government of India that such a form of government, if successful, would serve as a model for other Indian States may be said to have been substantially realised.

In conclusion, I repeat my obligations to all those whose names have been mentioned in the previous volume—Sir Mirza Ismail and Messrs. Ranganatha Rao Sahib, T. V. A. Iswaran, N. Madhava Rao, A. V. Ramanathan, T. R. A. Thumboo Chetty, B. T. Kesava Iyengar, R. Ranga Rao, M. Seshadri, M. Rama Rao, H. V. Ramaswamy, A. K. Syed Taj Peeran, K. Mylari Rao, Amildar K. Seshagiri Rao—as well as to C. M. Cariapa and C. E. Noronha.

In the preparation of this volume also, I have to repeat that my obligations are due to my assistant Mr. B. M. Gopala Rao, B.A. (Hons.), for the very valuable help he has given me.

Messrs. Higginbothams are again entitled to my thanks for their neat execution of this volume also.

BANGALORE,

M. SHAMA RAO.

*September 1936.*

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Page 304. Line 14 from top—For ‘Mysore’ *read* ‘Madras.’

Page 384. Line 20 from top—For ‘clear’ *read* ‘cleaner.’

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## **CHAPTER I.**

### **Installation of Chamaraja Wodeyar X.**

It was customary with the Mysore royal family that after the completion of the funeral ceremonies of a deceased Maharaja the coronation of his successor should take place without much interval of time. The ceremony of seating the young Prince on the throne should therefore have followed about the middle of April 1868. But beyond the proclamations published by the Commissioner no further action leading to the installation was taken. This inaction caused considerable anxiety not only to the Ranees in the Palace but also to the other relatives of the Maharaja as well as the general public. It was pressed on the attention of Bowring by the leading people of the country that the usual coronation ceremony should take place, so that at the ensuing Dasara His Highness might seat himself on the historic throne of Mysore and receive the homage due to his position from his subjects. It was also urged on the Commissioner that as the representative of Her Majesty's Government he should attend the installation ceremony which was to be marked with all the solemnity as was associated on the occasion of the installation of Krishnaraja Wodeyar in 1799.

Bowring, however, considered it advisable previously to consult the Government of India on the matter and accordingly applied on the 7th May 1868 for instructions. In doing so, he wrote that as the young Maharaja was a ward as well as a minor if he was placed on the throne at that time possibly future complications might arise as to the extent of his rights and jurisdiction which had been left undefined being subject to decision in the future. He also considered that there was no strict analogy between the proposed installation of the young Maharaja and the installation of 1799 and that the present Maharaja could not as a ward be permitted to be enthroned until the British Government was satisfied of his competency to discharge worthily the important duties that would devolve on him.

The Government of India on their part referred the question on the 12th June to the Secretary of State desiring to have

a pronouncement of the Home Government on the subject. In this communication the Government of India expressed their own opinion in these terms: "Having regard to the views expressed in your despatch, dated 16th April 1867, it appears to us that until the Maharaja attains his majority and is found qualified for Government and until the terms on which the administration will be made over and the conditions of the new treaties are arranged, anything like a formal installation would be premature and out of place."

Meanwhile, there was considerable solicitude in the minds of the people of Mysore as to the value of the proclamation published relating to the recognition of the young Maharaja as successor to the throne of Mysore, so much so that there was danger of the proclamation being regarded as a mere scrap of paper. The Dasara festival also was not far distant when according to the family custom the Raja was to show himself to his subjects seated on his throne. On the 10th of August the two Ranees addressed a communication to the Commissioner pointing out in view of the approaching Dasara the urgent need of procuring a reply regarding the performance of the installation ceremony, so that there might be no break in that long observed custom. On the 19th September following Major Elliot, Superintendent of the Ashtagram Division and Officer in charge of palace duties, waited on the Ranees and announced to them the message he had received from the Commissioner conveying the consent of the British Government for the performance of the installation ceremony of the young Maharaja. The Government in England had read the situation more correctly than either the Government of India or the Commissioner of Mysore inasmuch as they considered that recognition by mere proclamation would be incomplete and that a formal ceremony of installation was needed to inspire confidence in the sincerity of the intentions of the British Government. The date on which this announcement was made corresponded to the 5th day of the Dasara festival and at once removed the gloom that had been felt everywhere by the suspension of the public performance of this annual pageant. The news at once spread in the town and there were general rejoicings with a distribution of sugar to the people in all

the streets of Mysore. Later in the day the leading townspeople sought an interview with the young Maharaja and presented fruits and garlands. After this function was over, Bakshi Narasappa and other important officials of the Palace visited Major Elliot at his residence and presented him fruits and garlands as a token of thankfulness and joy on the part of the royal family for the happy message conveyed. On the 22nd September Bowring came to Mysore and on the next day corresponding to the 7th day of the Dasara at 12 noon the installation ceremony took place in a specially erected pandal in the inner quadrangle of the Palace. Even though the interval for making arrangements was very short, all the leading men were assembled with a number of Europeans also. After the religious ceremonies were finished, Bowring and Elliot holding the hands of the young Prince seated him on the throne when three volleys of musketry and a royal salute were fired. The Maharaja was pelted with a storm of flowers from every side and the large assembly testified by shouts and clapping of hands their satisfaction. The family priest next pronounced benedictory prayers and offered to His Highness water from several sacred streams with other consecrated articles. On these initiatory ceremonies being completed, the genealogy of the royal family was read out aloud and on its termination the spearmen rattled their spears, the band struck up, and the building resounded with the shouts and cheers of the people. Bowring then proceeded to present to the Maharaja on the part of the Viceroy a khillat of 21 trays fastening a piece of jewellery round His Highness' neck and a similar khillat was submitted through him for the Viceroy's acceptance. The Rajbindies and officials then each in turn presented their nazars and the ceremony concluded with the customary offering of pansupari and garlands of flowers. In the evening there was the usual durbar and continued daily during the whole of the Dasara festival.

In this connection the account given by Mrs. Bowring in a letter to a friend from the time she left Bangalore with her husband till she returned is so graphic and replete with interesting details that no apology is needed to reproduce it here, though somewhat long.

" On Saturday, September 19, a telegram was received from Mysore that the installation of the young Raja must take place on the 23rd as the wise men and astrologers having consulted the stars found that that was the auspicious day, the hour to be between 11 and 12 o'clock. It was useless to remonstrate at this short notice, so L— said ' Fiat ', and I grumbled and set Marie and two tailors to work and stitch their fingers off to get ready.

" The Raja's stables having been reduced from unlimited supplies of horses and carriages to ten pairs it was no longer possible to post royally along the road of eighty four miles in His Highness' carriage as of old. So bullocks were laid and out of consideration for my bones the bullock coach was discarded and a pole adjusted to the office carriage which makes up into a bed.....

" A pair of bullocks having been pressed into the service with many blows and shouts we set off at a famous trot, a Silledar curvetting in front and several more kicking up a dust behind, while a peon ran in front shouting to everybody to keep out of the way. Away we went, down through the native town, the people staring and salaaming, out into the wild rocky country beyond. As we passed through the different taluks or villages, the Amildar or Magistrate came out to meet us followed by the inhabitants and while we changed bullocks presented garlands of flowers and limes and chatted with my husband in Canarese of the coming event. " After a time, the road became more rough—very bad indeed—and the bullocks had hard work to get along. The difficulty was overcome by a native, with only his loins girt, sitting on the shaft, shouting and twisting the tails of the poor beasts, while the driver lashed and the peons running on either side poked them with their sticks! Two wild-looking natives ran on ahead, as it grew dark, with torches, the smoke and smell of which were anything but agreeable. As we approached the village, a native with a curious horn announced our arrival by a cheerful blast. During the night in passing through the villages we saw the people asleep outside their huts rolled up in their blankets white or coloured looking like so many mummies. The great banyan trees looked so ghastly in

the moonlight with their gnarled branches and beardlike appendages.

"Once during the night we were awakened by loud cries and stopping found that the Silledar had given a whack to a pair of bullocks at the head of a train of carts which had resulted in the animals upsetting the cart into a ditch. The cries were so piteous that we concluded that the driver was under his cart and L— got out to render assistance but found the man unhurt sitting by the wayside weeping—I ought to say howling—and wringing his hands, Indian fashion, instead of setting to work to do anything.

"At the Maddur Station which was nice and clean I made myself tidy. We had a comfortable breakfast and being joined by Major C— started again at 6 o'clock in a comfortable carriage of the Raja's with good horses.

"We soon crossed the Kaveri the first Indian river I had seen. The country was very green with rice crops and mulberry trees and is irrigated by the water channels of the Kaveri at this season of the year. We now got along at a great pace and soon came in sight of Seringapatam peeing out amongst the luxuriant vegetation. There was the mosque, the fort, the tomb of Tippu Sultan, the house and garden occupied by the Duke of Wellington and the lofty monument erected to the memory of the officers who perished at the storming of the fort. In crossing an arm of the Kaveri we had a beautiful view at the Raja's bathing-place beneath a very picturesque bridge. Great flights of steps lead down to the water and women in bright clothes were filling their brass vessels with the water and walking away with them on their heads. The river looked so deliciously cool that it is not very strange that these poor Indians should worship it when it is the source of such blessings to their country.

"The next stage seemed very short and we were joined by a regiment of Silledars who look very well in a body with their gold and scarlet dresses and turbans. The native saddles also are very handsome, whilst the horses adorned with coloured ropes and tassels round their necks add greatly to the general good effect. They

certainly consider themselves fine fellows and show off and kick up no end of dust. I was nearly choked.

"Next we came upon a man with his horn; then a temple with all the dancing girls outside in their best, with their priests and their everlasting tomtoms. A little farther on was a deputation of all the merchants of the city with a congratulatory speech with a stout burly gentleman with much gesticulation, which had we not been obliged to listen to it almost uncomfortably in the glare of the sun would have amused me greatly. Then garlands and bouquets were thrown into the carriage. I was indeed rejoiced to reach the Residency and get into the cool house.

"On Wednesday at 11 o'clock we were all dressed and assembled at the Residency which was formerly a palace of the Raja and has in it one of the finest rooms in India. All the company at last arrived and we went off in carriages preceded by the Silledars, while natives ran on each side bearing very long lances with scarlet streamers and gold cords and tassels. These lances they shake and clang in a peculiar manner and to my mind most musically. In the procession were carried some curious batons and mitres, insignia of royalty.

"All the people were thronging about and when we turned under the gates of the fort within which is the Palace and arrived at the great square in front of it, the noise was such that it was impossible to make any one hear. It was all dumb show. God save the Queen! Native music! Tomtoms! A great mass of human beings in the square and every individual shouting. Had I not been told what to expect, I should have been frightened.

"Upon driving up in front of the Palace, one of the princes came forward. I salaamed, he salaamed and extended his two hands upon which I placed one of mine and he led me up the steps surging with people into the inner court of the Palace to the chair on which sat the young Raja to whom I salaamed and with whom I then shook hands.

"My husband and Major Elliot following did the same and ~~then~~ they took the little man by the hand and leading him up the



silver steps lifted him on to his throne. Then you should have heard the row! The lances were clanged, the English hurraed, the natives shouted and the bands and tomtoms played. I never was in such a din, and the crowd surged up, and there came a perfect shower of flowers. We were pelted on all sides and L— had to protect the little Raja with his cocked hat, while Major C—did his best for me; but it was hopeless and there was nothing for it but to endure. My dress was ruined at once, all the flowers being soaked in attar of roses! I looked up expecting to see the little Raja terrified and in tears, but like a high-born oriental he sat as cool as a cucumber.

"I must describe the little fellow to you and his throne. Chamaraja Wodeyar, Maharaja of Mysore, is going on for seven years of age. He is not dark but of a rich olive complexion, with most splendid eyes. He has bare feet, coat and trousers of gold and a beautiful turban hung round with great drops of emeralds and diamonds. Major E— had the State rings and bangles made to fit his small feet and fingers. The throne is like what one reads of in a fairy tale, of solid gold, very ancient, and exquisitely chased and carved. From the arms hang ropes of real pearls. The umbrella above it is surmounted by a peacock in emeralds and diamonds. Two attendants stood behind waving feathers tipped with diamonds and two others waved in the air in a peculiar way Kashmere shawls or what looked to me like them.

"After a time, order was established and we all sat down, the English on the left, the royal princes on the right. The little king looked about him with astonishing coolness and began chewing a betel-nut! Had he cried, the people would have thought it a bad omen. As it was, he was a born king and they were all delighted.

"Then followed the ceremonies. First came the Brahmins, with incantations and prayers, sprinkling the child with the waters of the sacred rivers of India. Secondly, his pedigree from the gods down to the present day was read out. We gave him three cheers and there was a great row. Thirdly, presentation of the fruits of the earth carried in on trays, the Raja laying his tiny hand on

everything with great dignity. Fourthly, presentation of 21 trays of presents and a very handsome necklace from our Government, and my husband fastened the ornament round the little fellow's neck. Fifthly, descending from his throne the Raja presented 21 trays to L— and fastened a splendid necklace of pearls, diamonds and rubies round his neck, a shawl embroidered in green and gold being thrown over his shoulders. Then the Raja placed wreaths of flowers over L's neck and mine, but he could not get them over my bonnet which seemed to amuse him greatly. Then he presented each with a rose, and a gold tray being handed in he scented the roses with attar and gave each of us a betel-nut, after which he was again placed on his throne.

"Then followed the homage of all his relatives who advanced one by one and bowing down placed their heads on the throne, each offering a present which the Raja just touched. Then all the English officers salaamed and shook hands and were handed out to the carriages as before amidst renewed shoutings, the bands playing 'God save the Queen.'

"I must tell you that the floor of the raised platform was carpeted with cloth of gold which was soon inches deep in flowers.

"In the afternoon of the same day we went a second time to the Palace for a durbar. Inside the Palace is a great room looking on and opening into the square but upstairs and the throne had been placed in the balcony so that all the public might see it.

"First came the Brahmins and the child had actually to worship his throne walking round it three times and throwing lotus flowers at the foot of it, prayers being meanwhile recited. Then L— put him on his throne, while the mob below closed in and there was another storm of flowers, L— protecting the Raja's face with my fan!

"Then there were wrestlers below fighting, then sword-dancing and behold the State elephant painted and done up for the occasion in his best. He was led up to the front of the balcony and saluted with his trunk in the air. He was followed by the State horse

magnificently caparisoned and lastly came the sacred cow worshipped as an impersonation of the Deity covered with pearls and cloth of gold. Finally all ended with fireworks and 'Good Night.'

"On returning to the Residency we had just time to dress for the grand dinner given to all the European officers. After dinner, we drank the health of the Queen, L— made a short speech, and then we drank the Raja's health. After dinner, we had music and we got up some Christy Minstrel's songs. In fact, everything went off well.

"On the following day L— and I drove round the town of Mysore and had a very picturesque view of the old walls of the fort, an avenue of trees, and a large tank a lake-like sheet of water, with Chamundi rising beyond, on the summit of which is a house and a temple dedicated to the tutelary deity of the Mysore dynasty. On returning we all went to the stables to see the horses and feed the pigeons, great beauties, and formerly special pets of the late Raja.

"After breakfast, we went to the Palace and saw all over it. It is a most curious and interesting place. We went first into the inner courtyard where the installation took place the day before and then took a squint down a long dirty-looking passage to the kitchen, which Major Elliot advised us not to visit. Passing up an open staircase into a low wide gallery we saw to the left the ladies apartments and turned to the right into a small ante-room lighted from above, in the centre of which was a square place railed off and slightly sunk in which are kept the sacred cow and her calf. The former was evidently viciously disposed towards us and made a thrust at the railing to get at us ringing a silver bell. Her daughter however was more amiable and allowed us to pat her. They were both as sleek as horses and had each an attendant watching to administer to their wants.

"We then went into the inner durbar-room. In the centre the ceiling was hung with long chains of coloured glass beads and as the sun shone upon them the effect was very pretty. The doors

were of massive silver carved all over with hideous gods and goddesses..... In the Raja's proper bedroom we were shown a pearl necklace composed of 2400 pearls.

"We then went to another part of the Palace to pay our visit to the queens. The gentlemen had to speak to them through a curtain, but I was allowed to pass behind with a lady interpreter. On going in, I found all the six ladies seated on chairs. I salaamed to each and shook hands. A chair was then placed for me before the first queen and I was asked to sit down.

"As to their costume, as they were all in mourning no jewels were worn and all had plain clothes excepting the first queen who had on a very magnificent green and gold shawl. She was a nice-looking old lady with refined features and after shaking hands with me rarely spoke during my visit. Next to her sat No. 2, a jolly, good-natured, portly old lady who talked all the time as fast as her tongue would go. She began by drawing my chair close to her and seizing and squeezing both my hands in hers said she was delighted to see me and we had the following conversation.

Mrs. B.—'I hope you were not all much fatigued by yesterday's ceremonies?'

2nd Queen (tears rolling down her fat cheeks).—'My two eyes were not big enough to look at it all! But you must intercede that it may not be all show but real!'

Mrs. B.—'There is no further need of intercession. The boy is crowned and the British Government will protect his rights!'

3rd Queen.—'We are overcome with gratitude to Mr. Bowring. We know that all the joy we feel is owing to him!'

Mrs. B.—'I should like to see the mother of the young Raja!'

1st Queen.—'We will send for her!'

"Then the second began talking to my husband in Canarese through the curtain and in a few minutes in came the young Raja and his mother, a very nice-looking young woman with splendid

eyes like her son's. She salaamed down to the ground and then with all her heart in her eyes she took up the little fellow and put him on my lap saying 'I give my child to you. He is not mine any longer and you must protect him and intercede for him.' Then women servants came in with a silver dish with a garland of flowers which the child took and put round my neck and then placed a rose in my hand scented by him from a gold scent-bottle with attar. Finally he handed me a betel-nut, all which I, of course, accepted with a salaam.

"The little boy was superbly dressed and had on such a necklace!

1st Queen—'Do you admire the necklace?'

Mrs. B—'It is most beautiful but the child is far handsomer than the jewels.'

"At which pretty speech great satisfaction was evinced by all the ladies.

3rd Queen—'I see by your face that you love children. Have you any of your own?'

Upon which an explanation followed of the loss of my baby.

2nd Queen—'You have travelled a long way. Do you like India?'

1st Queen—'We will show you our jewels!'

Mrs. B— could not speak for looking at them!

2nd Queen—'You speak more kindly to us than any English lady we have seen. We like you better than any one we have seen.'

"But here a message came that I had remained long enough and that I must come away. So I shook hands with them all, the second queen begging me to ask L— to send them to Benares that they may finish their religious duties for their husband's soul. The little Raja gave me his two hands and conducted me out with astonishing self-possession and gravity.

"When I got out, the gentlemen began laughing at me for staying so long but I found they were, nevertheless, all curiosity to know what the queens were like and what they had said.

"We next visited the library. The books are all written on palm leaves strung together and compressed between wood, ivory or silver plates. Poems and fairy tales comprise the literature of the country and some of the books were illuminated.

"We then visited the armoury, a most curious collection, but some of the weapons were terribly cruel and made me shudder! We then passed into a great durbar-room full now of boxes of treasures. We had one box opened and looked till we were tired at ladies' clothes made of cloth of gold worth Rs. 1000 each. We saw shawls by the dozen and our eyes ached with looking. Some of the boxes were marked outside with the name of the queen whose particular treasure they contained.

"I was attacked by a violent cold and could not go to the evening durbar but was told that the little Raja complained of the great weight of his turban and begged he might have a lighter one, which I think shows him to be a very sensible child.

"On returning to Bangalore we travelled at different hours and I was glad to see something of the country we had before passed in the dark, parts of which are strikingly picturesque. We entered Bangalore in the evening and as we drove through the pettah or native town we came in for the procession at the close of the Dasara. All the gods and goddesses were being carried on cars with shoutings and tomtoms, the people being painted and got up in most extraordinary costumes, so that it really was a very singular sight but I was so sleepy and tired that I could hardly take it all in. Thus ended our visit to Mysore which I thoroughly enjoyed notwithstanding the fatigue and my cold."

## **CHAPTER II.**

### **Fresh arrangements connected with the Palace.**

The demise of Mummadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar in March 1868 a little over a year after his adopted son was recognised as the heir to the throne of Mysore caused anguish and disappointment in the minds of all those who were associated with His Highness in the struggle for the restoration of the country. Bakshi Narasappa was the principal agent and co-adjutor of the deceased Maharaja in this struggle and his acute intellect, diplomatic cleverness and capacity for organization were of no inconsiderable service to the Maharaja. It was also a feature of this struggle that several of the European and Indian officers in the service of the State as well as others lent their hearty co-operation to the Maharaja in what they considered his righteous cause.

Bowring who was Commissioner was fully aware of this attitude on the part of some of his subordinate officers but considered it prudent to assume an air of indifference about the matter to avoid giving rise to any possible trouble by any hasty action of his. He mistrusted especially the officials of the Hebbar Sri Vaishnava class, "the wily Iyengar clan" as he called them and who were in his eyes as able as they were unscrupulous. A high official named B. Krishna Iyengar was regarded by him as head of this party and to get him out of his way Bowring had promoted him some years before to the charge of an outlying district. Krishna Iyengar however was not, as Bowring found later, a man to be easily suppressed and he continued to carry on as before correspondence from Kolar where he was placed and with an affectation of confidence showed to Bowring himself several letters he had received from Colonel Macqueen and other Europeans interested in the Maharaja's cause. Narasappa also specially laid himself open to the suspicion of Bowring as he had been the principal channel of access to the Maharaja and had control over the Palace purse.

To assist Major Elliot to wind up the late Maharaja's affairs Bowring regarded that the services of a native officer were essential and, in the circumstances above described, that officer he thought

should be one imported from outside the State and quite unconnected with Mysore. Accordingly Bowring obtained the sanction of the Government of India for the appointment of a native assistant to Major Elliot and obtained from the Madras Government the service of C. V. Rangacharlu, a Deputy Collector in the Madras Service, who subsequently became the first Dewan of Mysore when Chamaraja Wodeyar was entrusted with the Government of the State. Rangacharlu was a pupil of E. B. Powell the famous educationist of Southern India and at the time he joined the Mysore Service was 37 years old. Rangacharlu began his service as a clerk in 1849 and in 1856 he wrote a bold and outspoken paper on bribery and condemned it in strong terms as a vice not to be tolerated among public officials. He joined the Mysore Service in April 1868 and Bowring at the very first interview he had with him found him not only a man of undoubted ability but also as a man possessed of somewhat uncommon ambition. Rangacharlu had an intimate knowledge of revenue matters and accounts, combined with unusual sagacity and shrewdness, though his manners were peculiar and not attractive at first sight.

Major Elliot and Rangacharlu were engaged for over 6 months in the laborious task of overhauling the Palace affairs and reorganising the establishments there. There were at the time of Krishnaraja Wodeyar's death 7 departments in the Palace under the designations of—1. Aramanay. 2. Barr Cutcherry. 3. Body-Guard. 4. Zillo Cutcherry. 5. Killey Cutcherry. 6. Shagird Pesha Cutcherry and 7. Khazana. The total number of employees was 10,119 at a monthly cost of Rs. 78,000/-. Among the religious and charitable institutions to which grants were confirmed were included, taking into consideration the catholicity of Krishnaraja Wodeyar's mind, the Civil Orphan Asylum at Madras and the Roman Catholic Church at Mysore. The Maharaja had also established four chatrams or feeding-houses and some temples, the chatrams being situated on the four important roads leading out of the Mysore town within a radius of about 4 miles and two more being situated in the town itself. Major Elliot's proposal to abolish these feeding-houses and to utilise the funds for establishing one large chatram as well as poor-house at Mysore in memory of His



Highness was not accepted by the Government of India. On the other hand, they suggested that one good chatram might in addition to the existing ones be established at Mysore. Reference has already been made to the English School and the hospital maintained by His Highness. These two institutions were transferred to the Education and Medical departments respectively and fees for tuition were introduced in the former, orphan boys however being admitted without payment. The services of a conductor were obtained from the military department of the Madras Government and all the guns in the Mysore fort which were not absolutely required were destroyed and large quantities of shot and cartridges were broken up and rendered unserviceable.

The Palace enquiry was conducted under three heads—debts of the late Maharaja, scrutiny into property of all kinds, and remodelling and reduction of existing establishments. The revision of the establishments demanded the exercise of great discretion, firmness and patience and it was done on a liberal basis. After revision, three thousand one hundred and ninety-six persons were retained at a monthly cost of a little above Rs. 19,000 and the remainder of the employees were either absorbed in the Government departments or given gratuities and pensions on a special scale so as to minimise all hardship. The establishments were divided into three cutcherries and eight minor branches with a general office of management. Cutcherries—(i) Aramanay Dufter; (ii) Killey Dufter; (iii) Zillo Dufter. Minor Branches—(i) Religious or Chamundi Thotti; (ii) Out-door servants or Avasarada Hobly; (iii) In-door servants—Samukada Ooligai Khas; (iv) In-door servants—Zenana; (v) Stables—Aswasala and Gajasala; (vi) Cows—Karohutty; (vii) Maramat; (viii) Gardens or Bagayat. There were also attached to the general office Tosheekhane or treasury, Correspondence and Accounts, and Supplies or Motikhane. The term 'cutcherry' was confined to the three principal departments which were prominently connected with the state and dignity of the Palace and over which the leading members of the Maharaja's relations were continued as honorary Bakshis. The remaining establishments which were of a more private and personal character were styled Ilakhas and were superintended by

one or more paid servants under the name of Gurkars. The Aramanay Dufter Cutcherry was a general office of record for the Palace, to which all the papers requiring to be preserved were transferred from time to time by the several Ilakhas. To this office were also entrusted the duties of keeping the genealogy of the Maharaja and his relations, rules of precedence, customs and other matters. The Killey cutcherry dealt with the sepoy establishment retained for providing guards for the fort and palace and escorts of body-guard. The Zillo cutcherry was intended to regulate and undertake all arrangements connected with escorts and processions and comprised the whole of the Rachaiwar and Bahlé forces. The Rachaiwars were chiefly employed as trustworthy guards in the interior apartments of the palace where admission was not allowed to the more miscellaneous classes of sepoys. The Bahlé or spearmen provided some of the outside guards and were also largely employed as escorts for the Maharaja and his relations. They represented a class of the Bedar peons so famous in the former Carnatic warfare—a class addicted to hunting and noted for their great daring, hardy habits, and strong attachment to their masters.

To provide for the reasonable ambition of old and distinguished servants of the Palace the class of Moosahibs was also retained who corresponded to privy councillors and attended durbars and other State occasions in which they were allowed certain rights of precedence. After Rangacharlu was employed for regulating Palace affairs, Bakshi Narasappa was placed in the class of Moosahibs.

During the late Maharaja's time the salaries of Palace establishments were counted in Canteroi Pagodas and fanams and now they were ordered to be disbursed in British currency as was the case in all the offices under the Commissioner. It was specially enjoined on the Commissioner that while care was to be taken to avoid all extravagant expenditure, at the same time the dignity and comfort of the Maharaja were to receive scrupulous attention. Major Elliot and Rangacharlu performed the work entrusted to them with great promptitude, tact and judgment, the duties on which they

were employed involving as they did an inquiry into confused and intricate accounts and needed firmness and discretion.

As regards one-fifth share of the net revenues of the State which were being paid to the late Maharaja under the Subsidiary Treaty of 1799, the same was closed under the authority of the Secretary of State for India. The Secretary of State at the same time impressed upon the Governor-General the need of administering in trust the revenues of Mysore and for making adequate provision for the support of the Maharaja, his family and dependents during the period of minority, the unappropriated balances being accumulated for the future benefit of the Maharaja and of the State of Mysore.

In April 1868 Bowring proposed to the Government of India that the young Maharaja should take his residence in the palace in the fort at Bangalore. But the Government of India overruled the proposal as it was open to misconstruction and the Secretary of State subsequently concurred in this decision. The attempted removal of the family from the present home, said the Secretary of State, was open to be regarded with suspicion by all the inmates of the Palace and probably with consternation by the ladies of the family.

In October 1868 the Secretary of State sanctioned the appointment of a Guardian to the young Maharaja and approved of the nomination of Lieutenant-Colonel Gregory Haines who was formerly Superintendent of the Bangalore Division. Krishnaraja Wodeyar while he was alive had proposed this appointment in April 1867. His words contained in a Khareetha addressed to the Viceroy at the time may be taken as even now retaining the freshness of the significance which they possessed at the time they were written. "I am very desirous," said His Highness, "that my son Chamarajendra Wodeyar who by the blessing of God has now entered on his fifth year should receive greater advantages of education and training than I myself enjoyed in my childhood and youth, and as it is no longer possible for me to delay the matter and as it is the best time calculated for the purpose, I have to inform your Excellency that

with this view I have selected as his Guardian Lt.-Col. Gregory Haines, late Superintendent of the Bangalore Division, an officer well-known and respected in this country and who has received from Earl Canning an acknowledgment of his services to the State.....

"Although there may be a difference of opinion between your Excellency and myself as to the actual position and rights of this dear child, I feel sure there will be no difference of opinion between us as to the value of education to the princes and nobles of India. I am equally sure that whatever may be the destiny of my son and heir and whatever duties may devolve upon him, your Excellency and your Excellency's successors will never forget that he is by birth a member of this ancient royal family and that he is by Hindu law the son of the Raja of Mysore, 'the oldest' and 'the staunchest' although the humblest ally of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and India." Colonel Gregory Haines' appointment however was made after the death of Krishnaraja Wodeyar on account of the delay caused in connection with the correspondence between the Viceroy and the Secretary of State. After his arrival in India, Colonel Haines was placed in subordination to the Commissioner and was also given the assistance of Rangacharlu who was appointed to the newly created post of Controller of the Palace and was expected to make himself useful in regulating and controlling the officers of the Palace household.

The Government of India also pointed out that the education to be imparted to the young Maharaja was to embrace a sound knowledge of the English language and literature as well as of the languages most prevalent in Mysore, besides provision for good physical and moral training. It was further prescribed that the young Maharaja should be taught to ride, to swim, to play cricket and to handle firearms and he was also to be encouraged to devote himself successively to those strengthening exercises which were suited to his country, position and age, and that by precept as well as by example his views were to be constantly directed to the discharge of the regal and administrative functions which his high office would one day demand. It was also expressly laid down that while truthfulness and sound morality were to be inculcated, at the

same time there was to be no interference whatever with his religion or his forms of worship.

Lt.-Col. Haines continued only for a few months in Mysore and he was obliged to resign his appointment as he was too old and had also differences of opinion with the Chief Commissioner. In June 1869 the Government of India appointed Colonel G. B. Malleson as his successor. He was an officer of the Indian army and possessed a reputation for ability, experience, varied information and good judgment and was 44 years of age at the time when he entered on his new duties.

## **CHAPTER III.**

### **Closing years of the British Commission.**

The British Government after the demise of Krishnaraja Wodeyar became practically a trustee for the administration of the country on behalf of his successor the young Chamaraja Wodeyar and the Commission continued in power till March 1881, when the administration was transferred to the hands of the young Maharaja on the 25th of the same month. Bowring, as we have seen, resigned his appointment and left the country in February 1870 and in the interim between his departure and the restoration of the country to the Maharaja's rule there were three Chief Commissioners. The first was Colonel Richard Meade who was, prior to his appointment in Mysore, Agent to the Governor-General for the Central Indian States and whom the Earl of Mayo who had by this time succeeded Sir John Lawrence chose as the fittest person to administer the State of Mysore and in a letter addressed to him, dated 3rd February 1870, wrote: "In taking Mysore you have assumed a most interesting and responsible task which will require the exercise both of political and administrative duty of the highest importance. It is needless for me to recapitulate the relations under which the British Government now stands to that State. They are unique in India and though the fate of the State in future may be still uncertain, it is our duty to endeavour by every means in our power during the period in which it wholly remains in our hands to place every part of its administration upon a firm and efficient basis." In 1871 sub-divisions composed of groups of taluks were constituted and an Assistant Superintendent was placed in charge of each, the object being to bring the Government officers in closer communication with the people and to give the Assistant Superintendents a greater interest in their work.

The first step of preparing the State for administration by the natives of the country was taken in the time of Colonel Meade. In March 1873 the Government of India sanctioned a scheme for the appointment of a class of Attaches or probationers for the higher grades of the executive service of the State. These Attaches were

to be trained for permanent appointments in the Commission on giving proof of turning out to be good and efficient public servants. The persons selected for these posts were to be chosen from amongst the best educated youths belonging to the families of the State most entitled to consideration from their acknowledged position in the State or their eminent public services. The age limit for the Attaches was fixed at between 18 and 23 and the total number was limited to four for the time being. It was also laid down that no person appointed an Attache was to be retained in that post for more than two years, unless he was considered qualified for permanent employment. At the same time it was clearly expressed that there was no desire to abandon entirely the existing practice of promoting to the higher grades officials in the lower grades whose services and character merited special reward. The main object of the measure now initiated was to establish amongst the officers a higher tone than generally could be looked for from men who commenced their career in the smaller situations in which they had toiled for a long number of years and become accustomed to temptations on account of inadequate salaries often so damaging to one's character. In 1873 the designation of Commissioner was substituted for that of Superintendent through all the grades, the head of the administration having already been called Chief Commissioner in 1869. In the same year an important scheme for the establishment of Munsiff's courts with purely civil jurisdiction was brought into operation. The Amildars were relieved of their jurisdiction in civil cases and the judicial powers of other officers were greatly modified. The re-organisation of the police was commenced, one of the principal features of the scheme being the recognition of the village police and its utilisation after being placed on a reasonable footing of efficiency. The local military force was greatly improved by proper selection of men and horses and by the enforcement of a regular course of drill. Special training was provided for preparing native officers for the Public Works, Survey and Forest departments.

Meade was a true follower of Bowring and he not only supported the reforms which the latter had introduced but also developed them and extended them to various other branches of the

administration. Meade's views on what is called the Regulation System of Government contained in the Administration Report for 1872-73 are instructive: "There are some," he said, "who oppose every reform tending towards the introduction of a Regulation System on the ground that the administration may become too elaborate and that the system of Government usually termed Patriarchal is best adapted to a native State. These however are not the views which during the last ten years under the directions of the Government of India have actuated the administration..... The present Chief Commissioner believes that while over-elaboration in the system of Government cannot but be an evil as well in a native State as in British territory, the patriarchal system is even less adapted to a native State than to a province under the British rule, for the reason that those personal qualities in the ruler which can alone secure for such a system even a moderate and transient success are rarely possessed by the natives of India..... On the other hand, in these days of high education no difficulty will ever be experienced in procuring the services of native officers who are qualified to work any system however elaborate. Nor, if we examine the conditions of those States which are now governed by native rulers, do we find any tendency to allow subordinate officers to improvise any decisions for themselves unchecked by law, precedent, or central authority..... The patriarchal system in a native State is a synonym for anarchy and corruption and the most successful native States are those which strive to imitate a European model. The Chief Commissioner therefore believes that the closing years of British rule in Mysore should witness not disorganisation in the vain pursuit of a phantom system of native administration but a thorough consolidation of what has already been done to the end that the Province may be handed over to His Highness the Maharaja in perfect order."

In September 1873 Meade was called away to Baroda for a few months as the chairman of the committee appointed to enquire into and report upon the affairs of that State, which it was believed had become serious. He returned to Bangalore in March 1874 after this duty and in June following received the title of K.C.S.I.,



He continued in Mysore till February 1875 when he was again required to go to Baroda as member of the committee which was to enquire into the charge against Malhar Rao, Gaekwar of Baroda, of attempting to poison the British Resident at his court.

During Sir Richard Meade's absence R. A. Dalryell of the Madras Civil Service who was at the time a member of the Viceroy's Council officiated for him. Meade though he finished his labours at Baroda by November following was not able to return to Mysore as he was transferred to Hyderabad as Resident by Lord Northbrook who had succeeded the Earl of Mayo who was assassinated in the Andamans by a prisoner there. C. B. Saunders then took Meade's place permanently as Chief Commissioner and continued in Mysore for two years and it was during his time that there occurred the great famine of Southern India which crippled the resources of the country and caused an appalling mortality among the people.

In the years 1875 and 1876 the monsoons had failed to give a sufficient quantity of rainfall as was needed for a normal harvest. The Mungar or the early rains of 1877 which fell as usual had raised hopes of a normal year. But the Hingar or the later rains disappointed these expectations and it became certain that measures were necessary to meet the grim spectre of famine. The surrounding Madras districts were also in the same plight. Even in the earlier period some attempts had been made to give help to the people by starting relief works in several parts of the State as well as by granting remissions of assessment. The State forests were thrown open for the grazing of cattle and a few other measures were also adopted. The only railway that existed in the State at the time was the one from Madras to Bangalore and although large quantities of grain were imported into the State, yet the want of adequate conveniences for internal transport stood in the way of affording relief to the stricken people when and where needed. In May 1877 there were 1,00,000 of people fed in relief kitchens and in August this number rose to 2,27,000, besides 60,000 employed on relief works paid in grain and the 20,000 on the railway to Mysore under construction.

Sir Richard Temple who afterwards became Governor of Bombay had been deputed as special Commissioner to co-operate with the Government in carrying out relief measures. Lord Lytton who had succeeded Lord Northbrook as Governor-General visited Mysore in September 1877 and finding that relief on a larger scale was needed sent a number of European officers from Northern India to cope with the distress. Mr. (afterwards Sir Charles) Elliot was appointed Famine Commissioner and Major (afterwards Sir Colin) Scott-Moncrieff, Chief Engineer. Copious rains however in the months of September and October brought joy to the stricken population and ultimately put an end to the famine, although relief works were not generally closed till November 1878. At this time a fund called the Mansion House Fund raised in London and to which contributions were generously made by the people in England afforded considerable support for the rehabilitation of the people who had suffered from the famine and for resuming their vocations. The Christian Missions and other private bodies took charge of a number of orphan children for whose upbringing the Government also gave large contributions.

Before the famine broke out, there was an invested Government surplus of Rs. 63 lakhs in the treasury. This amount was all spent and there came to be a debt of 80 lakhs of rupees due to the Government of India who advanced the money for meeting this calamity. The population also was reduced by about a million, not to speak of the appalling loss of cattle. The revenue collections which in the year before the famine stood at over Rs. 109 lakhs fell in 1876-77 to Rs. 82 lakhs and in 1877-78 to Rs. 69 lakhs.

At the close of the famine relief operations the Government at Calcutta while commending to the Secretary of State for India the services of the European officers also referred appreciatively to the services rendered by the native officials. "Especially those of a higher standing and superior education," said the Government of India, "laboured strenuously and successfully in relieving distress and in carrying into effect the instructions that had been issued for guidance in the conduct of relief operations."

Another event of importance of a pleasanter nature however that took place during Saunders' term of office was the proclaiming of the Queen of England as Empress of India. This event was fittingly celebrated in all parts of the Mysore State. The young Maharaja and Saunders who had both received invitations from the Viceroy attended the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi held on the 1st January 1877 which not only set the seal on India being a part of the British Empire but also opened the way for the establishment of a new political relationship between the British Government and the Native States of India.

In April 1878 J. D. Gordon (afterwards Sir James) succeeded Saunders as Chief Commissioner. Gordon belonged to the Bengal Civil Service and had been transferred to Mysore as Judicial Commissioner. In April 1878 he was appointed Chief Commissioner in succession to Saunders. It was in the early years of his period of office as Chief Commissioner that the Mysore Government undertook to construct for the first time a line of railway and this line was the one from Bangalore to Mysore, a distance of  $88\frac{1}{2}$  miles, begun as a famine relief work. So far back as 1871 this project had been thought of and an estimate prepared, but the Secretary of State had put off the proposal on the ground whether it was not preferable to spend money on irrigation works rather than on railways. When famine broke out in 1877, it became a necessity to start immediate relief works and among these were the banks and cuttings on the metre gauge of the suspended railway line from Bangalore to Mysore. By the time the famine operations ceased in October 1878 a sum of Rs. 7 lakhs had been spent, of which Rs. 4 lakhs worth of work was substantially available for the completion of the line. The cost of the line was estimated at about Rs. 60 lakhs. Gordon was strongly in favour of executing the project. But the main obstacle in the way was that the Mysore State was already under obligation to the Government of India to the extent of Rs. 80 lakhs spent in combating famine. The Chief Commissioner proposed that if the repayment of this debt was postponed he would be able to meet the cost of construction from the current revenues of the State. The Government of India however were more inclined to advance the cost from their own funds rather than allow the postpone-

ment of the repayment of the debt. Lord Cranbrooke who was then Secretary of State for India decided in May 1879 that the recovery of the debt might be postponed on condition of paying 5 per cent interest per annum on the amount till it was discharged and that the construction of the railway might be undertaken from the current revenues of the State. Subsequently an agreement was also concluded with the Madras Railway Company to extend their broad guage line from the C. & M. Station terminus to the Bangalore City railway station, a distance of 3 miles.

The great famine of 1877-78 led to considerable unsettlement in the finances of the State. Bowring and Meade had both aimed at raising the standard of administration in Mysore to that prevailing in British India and they were averse to maintain large sums of surplus money in unfructifying reserve. Accordingly, much money had been spent on irrigation, on the employment of a large number of European officers on liberal salaries, on the formation of new departments, and on promotions to native officers. During the period that famine prevailed, necessarily a larger expenditure had to be incurred on mitigating its horrors. On the cessation of famine, therefore, it became clear that material reductions in expenditure could not be avoided and on J. D. Gordon the last Chief Commissioner fell not only the unpleasant task of introducing drastic cuts in State expenditure but also the imperative need of handing over to the young Maharaja's hands a fairly efficient system of administration.

To facilitate the reduction of the establishments, rules for the grant of liberal pensions and gratuities were temporarily promulgated and with the co-operation of C. V. Rangacharlu who had now been appointed Revenue Secretary to the Government of Mysore with the view of eventually being appointed Dewan, Gordon resolutely faced the situation. During the two years of famine 1876-78 there was a fall in revenue of 67 lakhs and the expenditure during these years exceeded the normal collections by about 66½ lakhs in consequence of the requirements of famine relief, so that the total deficit from diminished revenues and increased expenditure amounted to 133½ lakhs. Against this amount however was the

surplus invested in the Government securities which on sale realised a little over Rs. 61 lakhs, the rest being met from the loan advanced by the Government of India. While only 104 lakhs of rupees was budgetted as revenue for 1878-79, the actual collections amounted to 121 lakhs on account of the unexpectedly bountiful harvests of the year, coupled with the good prices which ruled, which enabled the ryots to pay large portions of the accumulated arrears of revenue. The expenditure however was 126 lakhs of rupees. Considerable reductions had therefore to be carried out in the expenditure of the several departments as it was no longer possible to keep up its old level. The Public Works grant was reduced by nearly one-half and the Irrigation Department was abolished as a separate branch and the provincial and local fund works were concentrated under one agency. The training of natives for posts in the D. P. W. had already begun by the establishment of an Engineering College and these trained men began gradually to take the place of the European officers at smaller cost. In the Judicial Department a native Civil and Sessions Judge on a salary of Rs. 1200 was substituted for the Commissioner on Rs. 2500 in the Nandidoorg Division and Judicial Assistants were called Subordinate Judges. Similar changes were also introduced in the two other divisions sometime later. For four of the districts out of eight native officers on lower pay were appointed as Deputy Commissioners and a reduction was also made in the number of Assistant Commissioners by the abolition of the subdivisions and of separate police Assistant Commissioners.

The coffee planters of Mysore held their lands under grant subject to an excise tax of Re. 1 per cwt. of coffee produced. In order to safeguard their interests on the administration being handed over to native rule, the Chief Commissioner proposed that each planter should have the option of choosing either a 30 years' settlement at Re. 1 per acre or a permanent settlement at Rs. 1½. The Government of India however vetoed the latter and the planters then accepted the 30 years' leases under protest. They however sought the intercession of the Secretary of State and an understanding was arrived at that on the transfer of the administration to the Maharaja there was to be no difficulty for the coffee

planters both European and native to obtain a permanent settlement of their holdings at a fixed acreage rate.

In 1878-1879 the Forest Department was abolished and the Conservator was transferred elsewhere, there remaining only three trained forest officers and the control was transferred to the Revenue Department.

Among the welcome legacies bequeathed by the British Commission to the future Maharaja's Government was 3750 miles of public road planted with trees on both sides at distances varying from 12 to 60 feet.

## **CHAPTER IV.**

### **Education of Chamaraja Wodeyar—Visit to the Delhi Imperial Assemblage—J. D. Gordon who was Judicial Commissioner appointed Guardian.**

Colonel Malleeson who had been appointed Guardian to the Maharaja in July 1869 and who in future years became noted as the historian of the great Indian Mutiny displayed great sagacity and tact in rendering the course of training pursued both pleasant and profitable. By August 1871 the young Maharaja had learnt to take pleasure in his school lessons and was inspired with emulation to outstrip his school-fellows. He also evinced a desire to excel in those active and athletic exercises and pursuits which were essential to the formation of a manly character. An accident forced Lt.-Col. Malleeson to go on leave for a time, when J. D. Gordon temporarily took his place. Associated with these two officers were Rangacharlu and Jayaram Rao who was head-master of the special school established for the education of the young Maharaja. Jayaram Rao was a person of high intellectual qualifications and excellent moral character on whom devolved the practical duties of tuition. At this time it was also realised that for a Prince whose destiny was to rule over a country, residence in places other than his capital would also be beneficial. The Secretary of State at this time strongly impressed upon all concerned in the education of the young Maharaja the extreme desirability of remembering that when he came of age he had to rule over mainly a Hindu people peculiarly jealous of and attached to the faith of their ancestors. Malleeson himself had fully realised that any measure which might alienate from the young Prince the sympathies of his people was to be carefully guarded against. The Secretary of State also regarded the attempt on the part of the British Government to train up an Indian Prince upon principles recognised by European statesmen without offending the prejudices or injuriously affecting the interests of many attached to oriental model as an experiment of supreme importance and hopefulness.

The course of life devised for the Maharaja in the early years of his education was that he was to live under the care of his first

adoptive mother Rama Vilas Maharani who was to regulate his diet and minister generally to his comfort. The special school was established in the Lokaranjana Mahal at some distance from the Palace and was modelled on the public schools of England, the only difference being that the learning of English took the place of Latin and Greek. In respect to the formation of classes, the preparation of lessons, the mode of examination, the hours of work and of play and the general control of the masters the system that was followed was based upon that which prevailed at Winchester. The number of boys in the school was 60 and they were divided into four classes each of which had its own separate master. One of the masters assisted the Maharaja in his lessons.

For the first time during the summer of 1872 Chamaraja Wodeyar in his 9th year was taken out of Mysore to visit Ootacamund. In December 1874 Colonel Malleson took the Maharaja on a visit to the Gersoppa waterfalls or Jog as it is also called on the western border of the Shimoga district where the river Sharavathi makes a magnificent leap into a gorge of 960 feet in depth and flows into the western sea at Honavar. Towards the end of 1875 the young Maharaja was taken to Bombay on a visit to the Prince of Wales who had arrived there for a tour in India and who later succeeded his mother Victoria as Edward VII.

The standard of education which the young Maharaja had reached in English when he was 13 years old may be gathered from the following two letters which he wrote at the time, one to a school companion and the other to Sir Richard Meade.

**Letter to a School Companion.**

OOTY, WEDNESDAY,  
28th April 1875.

My Dear Friend Ibrahim,

We are quite well by the good grace of our Creator. I received your kind letter on the 28th April. I was very glad to receive that letter. We are spending our time in reading, walking,



running and every day cricket playing. In reading Physical Geography of India we finished beginning three chapters. We are going hunting twice a week and we killed one tiger and 20 porcupines and some jackals..... Convey my best compliments to Abbas Khan, Bheema Rao and C. Subbaraj Urs. Here all the boys give their compliments to you.

I am yours

CHAMARAJENDRA WODEYAR.

**Letter to Sir Richard Meade.**

MYSORE,

*23rd December 1875.*

My Dear Sir Richard Meade,

Colonel Malleson delivered to me this morning your letter of the 18th instant. At the same time he explained to me the reasons of duty which had caused you to accede to the wishes of His Excellency the Viceroy and to leave Mysore for Hyderabad.

I can easily understand your preference for a place which you know, when the other is comparatively unknown. I used to experience a similar feeling when it was proposed to take me from Mysore to Bangalore. But I trust the results in both cases may be the same.

At all events, you have given me the example of sacrificing inclination to duty, though I must admit that since my journey to Bombay my previous prejudices against change have been removed.

My best wishes will go with you and it will always be a pleasure to me to hear that you and Lady Meade are happy.

I remain,

Dear Sir Richard Meade,

Your sincere friend

CHAMARAJA WODEYAR.

Early in 1875 Colonel Malleison thought it was time to introduce some changes in the arrangements as they existed then for the Maharaja's education. In 1874 a house had been bought at Bangalore and this house with the repairs and renovations needed had almost reached completion and become fit for occupation. Malleison's proposals now were :—

1. An English gentleman was to be selected from one of the English universities to fill the office of private tutor to His Highness occupying a house adjoining that of the Maharaja and exercising supervision also over his home life.
2. One of the masters was to accompany His Highness to Bangalore occupying the post of assistant tutor and manager of the household.
3. Seven or eight young Arasu boys and the second brother of the Maharaja were to accompany His Highness occupying rooms in the same house.
4. The school at Mysore was to continue to work for the time being under the supervision of Rangacharlu.
5. Colonel Malleison also proposed that the appointment of Guardian which he himself held might be abolished.

By the appointment of an English university graduate as tutor Malleison expected that broad, liberal and manly ideas would be instilled into the mind of the young pupil and his thoughts would be directed to the great duties and responsibilities which were to devolve on him and that thereby such prevailing ideas as that royalty was a pageant, that the king was an irresponsible despot, and that the government of a country was the means of securing an unlimited command of the national purse would be regarded by the Maharaja as foreign to the conduct of life of one in his position. In Malleison's opinion, the tendency of the Indian life was to bring the mind into a groove from which it rarely emerged and it was therefore necessary that by the side of the Maharaja

there should be an English tutor whose mind had thought out problems for itself and which took nothing on trust.

The Marquis of Salisbury (formerly Lord Cranborne) who was Secretary of State at this time on a reference being made to him by the Government of India for the selection of a tutor expressed dissent from the views of Colonel Malleson and communicated his own views in these terms:—"If no other object was in view but to bestow upon His Highness the best possible instruction in philosophical and literary knowledge, no exception could be taken to the arrangement proposed by Colonel Malleson. Such teaching could not be given more effectively than by a tutor fresh from the education of one of the English universities. But literary efficiency is not in this instance the principal object to be attained. At an age when the education of other men is not complete His Highness will be invested with powers upon the due exercise of which the happiness of large numbers will depend and will be charged with duties which will leave to him little leisure for the pursuits of a student's life. It is of great importance that he should be well instructed in the knowledge which will help him to success in this high vocation. The principles of the Government which will be administered by his authority and in his name, the special dangers and errors to which it is exposed, the blessings which if rightly directed it may confer, the warnings or the encouragement furnished by the history of the other princes of his own race are matters to which his mind should be specially turned during the remaining years of his minority. To the communication of such knowledge some familiarity with the experience of Indian administration in its various forms is essential. A person duly qualified will be more easily found in India than in England. Your Excellency will doubtless be able to select in the military or the civil service under your orders, on suitable salary and conditions, some gentleman possessed of the requisite administrative experience and fitted by character and disposition to win the confidence of his pupil. It is needless for me to remind your Excellency of the importance of the issues which may depend on the choice you are about to make. Not only the happiness of the people of Mysore but the future form and permanency of native

rule in India will be largely influenced by the career of the Prince whose education you are preparing to complete."

The Government of India agreeing with the above views of the Secretary of State appointed in July 1876 Captain F. A. Wilson of the Royal Artillery temporarily as tutor. He was at the time holding the appointment of Superintendent of the Tehree State and had formerly discharged the duties of tutor to the Nawab of Jowra in a manner which secured to him the good opinion of his official superiors and the sympathies of the native community. After Captain Wilson arrived in Mysore and relieved Malleson, the latter was allowed to retire from service and the office of Guardian was placed in abeyance for the time being.

Regarding the contemplated removal of the headquarters of the Maharaja to Bangalore, it was found that the intended step had caused on the part of the Ranees and His Highness' family generally a certain amount of distress and uneasy feeling, which it was considered desirable to avoid. It was also a question whether the Maharaja's removal from his hereditary capital was not open to grave political objections. It was accordingly decided that while the young Maharaja was free to pay occasional visits to other parts of his dominions and to British India, Mysore was to be regarded as his permanent place of residence.

On the 1st January 1877 the memorable Imperial Assemblage was held at Delhi to celebrate the assumption of the additional title of "Empress of India" by the Queen of England as representing the Paramount Power. The Maharaja of Mysore received an invitation from Lord Lytton to attend this assemblage and Chamaraja Wodeyar with his two brothers Gopalaraaj Urs and Subramanyaraj Urs, his brother-in-law Basappaaji Urs, Dalavoy Devaraj Urs, C. B. Saunders, J. D. Gordon, Captain Wilson, Rangacharlu and a few others left Mysore for Delhi on the 10th December 1876 and reached that place on the 19th. The gathering on the occasion at Delhi was on an unprecedented scale in the annals of India. There were assembled Princes and other important personages from all parts of the country. During the time devoted

to receiving and returning the visits of the chiefs there were banquets and receptions and entertainments of every kind. At the Assemblage itself, ranged in a vast semicircle in front of the Viceroy's seat were all the important ruling princes and noblemen of India interspersed with the Governors, administrators and other high officers in diplomatic or military uniforms.

At noon a flourish of trumpets from six heralds announced the arrival of the Viceroy. Then the Queen's Proclamation was read in sonorous tones by the chief herald and there after a translation was read out in the Urdu language to the assembly by the Foreign Secretary. At its conclusion the Royal Standard was hoisted in honour of Her Majesty the Empress and a grand salute of 101 salvoes of artillery was fired, interspersed at intervals with *feux-de-joie* from the combined lines of British and native infantry, while massed bands played the British national anthem. The scene at this moment, according to an eye-witness, was very unique. The splendid semicircle of princes, the vast expanse of troops, brilliant retinues, State elephants and crowds on crowds of human beings shading off into the distance, the sounds of music sounding above the roar of the artillery and the reverberations of the *feux-de-joie* combined to produce an effect never to be forgotten by those who witnessed the scene.

As the echoes of the last salvo died away, the Viceroy delivered an address explaining the intentions of Her Majesty in assuming the new title. The Queen, said Lord Lytton, regarded India as a glorious inheritance and recognised in its possession a solemn obligation to use her power for the welfare of its people and for safeguarding the rights of the feudatory princes. He claimed as a distinctive feature of the present as contrasted with past regimes the maintenance of order, justice and perfect religious toleration and towards the conclusion of the address Lord Lytton pronounced these memorable words: "It is on the gradual and enlightened participation of her Indian subjects in the undisturbed exercise of mild and just authority and not upon the conquest of weaker States or the annexation of neighbouring territories that Her Majesty relies for the development of her Indian Empire." A telegraphic

message of greeting received on the occasion from the Queen was also read by the Viceroy : " We Victoria by the grace of God, of the United Kingdom, Queen-Empress of India, send through our Viceroy to all our officers, civil and military and to all Princes, Chiefs and peoples now at Delhi assembled, our royal and Imperial greeting and assure them of the deep interest and earnest affection with which we regard the people of the Indian Empire. We have witnessed with heartfelt satisfaction the reception accorded to our beloved son and have been touched by the evidence of their loyalty and attachment to our House and Throne. We trust that the present occasion may tend to unite in bonds of yet closer affection ourselves and our subjects, that from the highest to the humblest all may feel that under our rule the great principles of liberty, equity and justice are secured to them, that to promote their happiness and to add to their prosperity and advance their welfare are the ever present aims and objects of our Empire."

On the conclusion of this grand event at Delhi during the whole period of which the young Maharaja of Mysore was treated with every mark of consideration as one belonging to the first rank of princes along with the Nizam of Hyderabad and Gaekwar of Baroda, the party left the place on the 9th January 1877 and arrived at Mysore on the 29th of the same month visiting on the way Agra, Cawnpore, Benares, Nasik and several other places of interest.

Now reverting to the Maharaja's education. After a little over a year's experience, it was found that for the higher training of the Maharaja for the important duties which awaited him and for the proper ordering of the household an officer of greater weight and influence than one of Captain Wilson's standing and experience was required, while for the direction of the young Prince's studies there was also the need of an officer of more practical experience in education. J. D. Gordon the Judicial Commissioner was considered to be the fittest person to occupy the post of Guardian at the stage then reached in the educational progress of the Maharaja and he was accordingly appointed to the post about the end of 1877.

For the post of tutor there was, as we have seen, at first an idea to appoint an English University graduate but the Secretary of State felt that it was desirable that one should be selected from among the existing officers of Government. For he thought that a person who had no experience of official life and who felt himself under no special obligation of obedience to the Government might out of mere partisanship for the Maharaja or in pursuance of some speculative view use his influence in a manner embarrassing to the British Government. To avoid such a contingency W. A. Porter, Principal of the Kumbakonam College, who had the reputation of being a famous educationist in Southern India was appointed tutor to the Maharaja in 1878.

## CHAPTER V.

### **Marriage of Chamaraja Wodeyar—Tours in the State— Finishing touches to his education.**

In February 1878 the Maharaja completed his 15th year and it was considered time to marry him to a suitable bride. The bride selected was named Kempananjammanniavaru and was 12 years of age at the time of marriage. She was the daughter of Narse Urs of the Kalale family who was a descendant in the female line of Immadi Krishnaraja Wodeyar who ruled the country before the government passed into the hands of Haidar. The bride had received fairly good education in English, Kanada and Sanskrit.

On the morning of the 26th May Chamaraja Wodeyar seated on an elephant with his two brothers Gopala Raj Urs and Subramanyaraj Urs one on either side passed in procession in the four main streets of the fort at Mysore with all the paraphernalia usual on such occasions and arrived in front of the Palace where he was received on behalf of the bride's party by Bakshi Basappaji Urs the brother-in-law of the Maharaja and conducted to the marriage pavilion. Here the marriage ceremony was performed according to Hindu rituals in the midst of the rejoicings of all the assembled people. At the time of the tying of the Thali or the marriage symbol the Chief Commissioner and a number of European officers were present. When the Thali was tied and the contracting parties became formally united, a royal salute of 21 guns was fired from the ramparts of the fort. The Chief Commissioner then went up to the screen behind which the surviving Dowager Maharani of Seetha Vilas was seated and intimated to her the contents of a telegram received from the Viceroy conveying the congratulations of Lady Lytton and himself on the happy occasion and in return the Maharani desired her thanks to be conveyed for the honour done to her House. The Chief Commissioner then delivered a tray of presents from the Viceroy consisting of a fine diamond ring for the Dowager Maharani and a diamond necklace for the bridegroom which was fastened round his neck by the Secretary to Government. A pearl necklace and a golden waist-belt set with precious



stones were presented to the bride. At this time an imperial salute of 31 guns was fired. On behalf of the Dowager Maharani 31 trays containing valuable cloths and jewels were delivered to the Chief Commissioner as the representative of the Viceroy for the latter's acceptance.

Various sports and entertainments were arranged for the Indian visitors and assembled guests during all the days of the festivities. A banquet for the European guests took place on the 3rd June in the Jagan Mohan Palace. At the conclusion of the dinner, the Maharaja with some of his relations and leading officials joined the party. After the toast of Her Majesty was proposed by the Maharaja, J. D. Gordon who had become Chief Commissioner by this time in acknowledging the toast expressed the hope that His Highness would live to rule his State with justice and benevolence.

On the night of the next day a grand procession took place. His Highness was seated in a gold ambari or howdah on a magnificent elephant and was attended on foot by his relations and native gentlemen. Elephants richly caparisoned and surmounted with howdahs and carrying the State flag led the procession. These were followed by troops of Silledar horses and these again by a company of Barr sepoy, behind whom walked the bearers of insignias and other paraphernalia of State accompanied by the English band and other music. The rear of the procession was similarly brought up by bodies of Silledar horses and elephants. The whole length of the cavalcade was lined on both sides by Silledar horses and Bahlé peons carrying long spears mounted with flags which had a picturesque effect in the torch light with which the procession was profusely illuminated. The procession after leaving the fort proceeded through the main street of the town under arches and pandals erected by the townspeople for the occasion. There was also a general illumination of the town. The procession passed on its return through the camp of the English guests at the Residency where His Highness was loudly cheered and reached the Palace at about 1 a.m.

W. A. Porter took charge of the Maharaja's education in the beginning of July 1878 and at the very outset introduced a few

salutary changes. Instead of teaching the Maharaja in the class along with others Porter acted mainly as his private tutor, thereby allowing His Highness to have all his lessons by himself. The subject in which the royal pupil took the most interest was Physics and he showed great patience and handiness in working with the instruments and his interest in the experiments was always fresh. Except sometimes on a hunting morning when the run had been an unusually long one, Porter never found the Maharaja attending his class late or absenting himself. His cheerful and ready application to all his lessons even to those for which he had no great liking or aptitude was as great as his regularity. He was never sullen or ill-tempered under difficulty but always did his best with a cheerful temper. One of the teachers A. Narasimha Iyengar assisted the Maharaja in the preparation of his lessons and was in a considerable degree his attendant companion. The Maharaja also took a deep interest in games and athletic exercises. He hunted twice a week during the hunting season and had the character of a forward rider. On most other mornings he rode out for exercise. His afternoon amusements were lawn tennis, cricket and driving. He also played polo one evening in the week.

On the occasion of a visit to the famous Kaveri waterfalls at Sivasamudram, Porter recorded the following notes:—"The interest shown in the Maharaja all along the route was in fact very remarkable and in many cases touching and impressive. Though the journey was perfectly private, the arrangements requisite for conveying so large a party necessarily made the fact known at the chief places along the route and the interest of the people was shown in a way which was evidently wholly spontaneous. On the part of the simple villagers the feeling manifested had something in it of almost religious veneration. Away on the outskirts of the crowd, too far away to receive any notice or recognition or serve any object except to gratify his feeling of reverence, a poor ryot would drop on the ground and this simple act of devotion over would rise and stare with all his eyes, or a woman equally far away from the scene with a child in her arms would put it down at full length with its face to the ground and then drop

beside it. Any one could see by unmistakable signs that loyalty to the ancient dynasty of Mysore is still a living and powerful feeling. All I have since noticed in every journey made with the Maharaja confirms my first opinion. Whenever he travels, it seems to be a holiday along the route and the faces of the crowd as evincing the intensity of their feelings are subjects of unfailing interest."

In April 1878 Saunders retired and Gordon was made Chief Commissioner combining the duties of the Guardian also and on him devolved the responsibility of giving the finishing touches to the training of the Maharaja for the proper administration of his country. Luckily, Chamaraja Wodeyar was found to be of a tractable disposition and all the efforts made by Gordon and Porter to train up their young ward for his future responsibility bore happy fruit. In November 1879 the young Maharaja was taken on a tour through the State accompanied by the Chief Commissioner J. D. Gordon, General Secretary W. J. Cunningham, tutor W. A. Porter, Revenue Secretary Rangacharlu and Chief Engineer Colonel Johnson. In the course of the tour as well as on other occasions the system of administration and various administrative details as they affected the people in their homes were explained to the Maharaja. His Highness wherever he went was welcomed enthusiastically by his subjects by means of addresses and other demonstrations. Gordon spent much time with the Maharaja at Mysore, at Bangalore and at Ootacamund and availed himself of these opportunities to converse with him on various subjects and to draw out his mind.

In the latter half of the year 1880 the Maharaja was again taken out on a tour of six weeks. During this period His Highness travelled through most of the districts in the State, visiting not only the headquarters of districts but also many other places of interest and importance. The loyalty and devotion displayed by all classes of people during this tour were, as the Chief Commissioner himself bore testimony, most remarkable. "At every station," wrote Gordon, "the Maharaja was greeted by an immense concourse of the population who had flocked from all parts of the Province to see him. At every turn of the road it may almost be said there were

eager crowds from the neighbouring villages gathered to welcome him. Triumphal arches, illuminations and other joyful demonstrations were everywhere spontaneously and enthusiastically made in honour of the occasion, so that the whole tour may be described as one continuous procession. The principal officials and the leading members of the local communities were at each place introduced to His Highness. He visited and inspected with me schools and all other institutions as well as important public works, roads, bridges and tanks. At all these places every opportunity was taken to impress on his mind what was important and to direct his attention to it. The effect has been, on the whole, most beneficial both in opening his mind and in awakening in him a kindly interest in the welfare of the people with whom he has thus early been brought in contact." After this tour was completed, Porter led His Highness over a somewhat higher range of subjects embracing the leading facts of constitutional history and the elementary principles of political economy. The practical details of the administration were imparted by the Chief Commissioner himself or by Colonel A. C. Hay, Commissioner of the Ashtagram Division, stationed at Mysore. At the period at which we have now arrived the Maharaja's education and political training may be said to have been practically concluded and, in the meanwhile, arrangements for the investiture of His Highness with ruling powers also went on apace as will be seen in the next chapter.

## **CHAPTER VI.**

### **Re-settlement of political relations with the British Government—An experiment in constitutional Government for Native States—Revision of administrative departments.**

In June 1875 the Marquis of Salisbury who was then Secretary of State for India called the attention of the Government at Calcutta to the advisability of making a beginning for overhauling the administrative machinery of Mysore so as to adapt it for the Maharaja's rule when the time came for the restoration of the country to His Highness. The Government of India were also aware that several complicated questions required solution in the interval that existed before the young Maharaja's installation in power. The distraction caused by the famine however had prevented both the Government of India as well as the Chief Commissioner from bestowing any attention on this subject and it was not till November 1878 that the matter was taken up.

On the 9th of November of that year the Government of India in a letter addressed to the Chief Commissioner observed that in settling the new form of administration for Mysore it was to be noted that the case under consideration was different from that of any other Native State which had been temporarily administered by the British Government. Two generations of the inhabitants of Mysore had grown up under British rule and in one part of the State there was a considerable body of English settlers who relying upon the protection assured to them by a systematic administration had invested their capital and acquired valuable property in the soil. The whole population had thus become accustomed to be governed upon principles which were universally admitted to be essential. The laws were written and duly promulgated, criminal and civil justice was dispensed by regular courts, the assessment and collection of revenue were made under permanent rules and generally the administration was carried on upon the same method and according to the standard of conduct which prevailed throughout British territory. It was therefore advisable, they said, that before Mysore was transferred to its future ruler the Government of India

should take adequate guarantees against any prejudicial changes being made in the administration which had taken root in the country.

The Government of India also considered it necessary to determine at the outset the main conditions which were to be attached to the investiture of His Highness the Maharaja with the full powers of executive government. These conditions, in their opinion, were to be regarded as forming something of the nature of a constitution for Mysore and were to be regarded as not liable to change without the assent of the British Government. The first condition was that the body of laws and rules made for the transaction of public affairs approved by the Government of India upto the time of the transfer were to remain in force until they were modified by competent authority. Any material deviation from the administrative system thus settled required the concurrence of the Government of India, while for the amendment of laws provision was to be made by the establishment of some legislative machinery. An immediate consequence of the declaration of the principle that all official authority was derived from some definite sanction would mean that no demands for taxes or other payments to the State could be made except under some law or prescriptive right or recognised custom. Further, a clear distinction was to be drawn between the private fortune of the Maharaja and the public revenues of the State, so that no appropriation of public money could be made otherwise than under the regularly constituted authorities entrusted with its expenditure. Complete accounts of the public expenses were to be rendered and subjected to competent audit. The system of annual appropriations based on a budget estimate to supply the funds needed for the several departments of the Government was to be continued. In judicial matters the executive was to have the same ample power of interference which was possessed by the executive government in British India and by similar analogy the restrictions upon prosecutions of public servants for acts done in their public capacity were to be the same as those established by the laws of British India. These were to be, according to the Government of India, the principles which the future Government of Mysore was to accept and maintain.

Next as regards the manner in which the administration was to be organised, it was thought necessary to follow at all events at the outset the form of administration as it existed then. The administration at the time was conducted by a Chief Commissioner aided by a Secretary, by a Judicial Commissioner who besides exercising a general supervision over the proceedings of the inferior courts of justice was the chief judicial appellate authority in the State, by three Commissioners of Divisions who discharged both judicial and administrative functions and by an organisation in each district at the head of which was a Deputy Commissioner who was judge and magistrate as well as collector. In the Departments of Public Works and Education the organisation was very similar to that which prevailed in British Provinces. The management of the police was under the Deputy Commissioners of districts aided by Police Assistants and by a Deputy Inspector-General who exercised a general supervision over the whole police of the State. There was a small military force under the command of a European officer who was designated Military Assistant to the Chief Commissioner.

Under the future regime most of the duties which were being discharged by the Chief Commissioner, it was considered, would fall to the share of the principal officers of the Maharaja's Government in subordination to him. The allotment of functions to these officers and the fixing of their relative responsibilities were matters for careful deliberation. While it was desirable, said the Government of India, that the vigour and promptitude in the despatch of business which usually resulted from investing one person with ample and superior powers should be secured, especially during the early years of the Maharaja's rule when he was yet to acquire sufficient strength and experience, it should at the same time be recognised that the system of concentrating the executive authority over all departments in a State in the hands of a single high official had proved by constant trial to be open to objections. Where the Chief of a State was able and energetic, the extensive powers of a Dewan, it was believed, rarely survived for any period after the termination of a Chief's minority. Where the Chief was by training or temperament indisposed to assume the burden of personal

administration, the institution of a Dewan favoured that indisposition and encouraged tendencies which were apt in the end to affect injuriously the position and character of the hereditary Chief. The Government of India therefore considered that the safest arrangement at the beginning was to provide the Maharaja with a Council consisting of not more than three of the highest officials at headquarters. Of this Council, one member could be selected as the Maharaja's chief executive officer or Dewan and as the immediate directing head of the departments in all matters except those which by the rules of business were to be reserved for consideration in Council. The other two members were to be selected from among the heads of the principal departments according to personal qualification and were to undertake in addition to their special departmental business such portions of the work sent up to the Council as were allotted to each. At the Council which would meet once or more often in the week the Maharaja was to usually preside and no important measure was to be inaugurated until it had been thus collectively discussed and passed. In the Judicial Department provision was needed for a Chief Court of appeal which was to discharge the duties then being discharged by the Judicial Commissioner. In the opinion of the Government of India this court was to be composed of a plurality of judges with a European Chief Judge for some years to come. The administration of the police was also to remain for many years to come in the hands of a European officer and similarly the department of Public Works.

J. D. Gordon the Chief Commissioner gave his concurrence to the above principles and propositions and at the same time impressed upon the Government of India the advisability of maintaining a proper and adequate machinery for the administration of the State and of placing some restriction on the military forces to be maintained by the State. As regards the Chief Judge of the High Court being a member of the State Council, Gordon expressed the opinion that though the combination in the same person of the functions of a Lord Chancellor with those of a Chief Judge might not be in strict accordance with European ideas, yet in a native administration it would be a source of strength to the executive government without impairing the judicial administration of the High Court. Gordon



also suggested that the proposed Council might with advantage be supplemented by a deliberative assembly composed of eminent retired officials, representatives of great local families, and representatives of the various sections and interests of the people before whom all proposed legislation, important measures of administrative reform and budget appropriations of public money might be placed for discussion and opinion. Such an assembly would, in his opinion, give the executive government an expression by practical and intelligent men of public opinion on all proposed measures, while it would not fetter the action of the executive. Moreover, it would afford the further advantage of providing a field of useful occupation and distinction to the leading non-official members of the community. As regards the ruler himself, having regard to the inevitable imperfections of chiefs succeeding to power by hereditary right and to the attendant evils in fixing on them the responsibility for the acts of Government, it was desirable that the Maharaja should not take upon himself too much of the details of administration. He should, of course, take a lively interest in the administration, exercise a healthy influence upon it by approval or displeasure, but in the main, said Gordon, it was desirable that he should confine himself to the consideration and discussion and the approval or veto of general measures and of nominations to the more important offices and to the selection of proper men for filling the highest posts in the administration.

In May 1879 Lord Lytton's Government addressed a despatch to the Secretary of State which began with a recital of Lord Northcote's observations made in 1867 of the need of assuring a sufficient guarantee for the continued good administration of the Mysore territory whose inhabitants had become used to orderly government for a long period under British rule and contained a summary of the measures which, in their opinion, secured the object in view as set forth in the correspondence with the Chief Commissioner of Mysore. The despatch also set forth that the transfer of a rich and civilised State from British to native rule with the stipulation that its Government should continue to be maintained at the British Indian standard of efficiency was a unique experiment inasmuch as it was necessary to maintain the dignity

and comparative independence of the ruler of the State by reserving to him personally some substantial share in the actual direction of the affairs of his State, remembering that in the great majority of the States in India the ruler's authority was by theory, though not actually, unlimited. This consideration had however to be subordinated to the still more essential necessity of providing beforehand some positive guarantees and checks against the consequences which would follow any serious misuse of the ruler's power through inexperience, through an unfortunate disposition, or under the advice of bad counsellors. At the same time, it was necessary to remember that while the constitution framed with these objects should continue effectively to fulfil them, the ruler and his Government should not feel themselves kept too closely under tutelage and restraint. The first step in framing the constitution was to surround the Maharaja with counsellors and high officials of known ability and experience and to establish such methods of transacting public business as would ensure every step being taken after deliberation and under distinct responsibility.

As regards the deliberative assembly proposed by Gordon, the despatch stated that it was premature to introduce in the beginning an institution which had not been tried in British India and which was not known to have succeeded elsewhere under circumstances analogous to those of Mysore, although some such accessory development might follow in the future.

The despatch also referred to the importance of the military establishment of the State. It was necessary that this establishment should not undergo a reduction below a certain numerical strength which should be adequate to the dignity and importance of the ruler of a State like that of Mysore. The Silledar Horse was a body of old standing and of long repute and it would be impolitic to leave the State with a local force of that kind much inferior in numbers to the mounted troops which were kept up in other first class States for internal protection and for display. The despatch concluded with these important observations :—" The experiment of placing His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore at the head of a constitutional government—that is, a Government to be conducted

on fixed and fundamental principles—undoubtedly makes a new departure in the policy of the Imperial Government towards the Native States of India. To determine the proper method of dealing with these States and of discharging the responsibilities which they entail upon the Paramount Power has always been and still is a problem of great difficulty. For the improvement of their condition and their gradual assimilation to the general system and standard of the Imperial Government is almost essential to their preservation. But the knowledge that we are now anxious to preserve Native States and the feeling of political security which has gradually gained ground among their rulers have tended almost as much to impede as to facilitate our endeavours to strengthen and consolidate these governments. In the period which preceded British predominance in India, a State which fell into confusion and embarrassment was in imminent danger from attack by more powerful neighbours and in the period which followed it was often threatened with annexation. The Native States have now no longer anything to fear either from foreign conquest or from annexation, while the Chiefs have received a distinct assurance from Her Majesty's Government that the succession of their legitimate heirs shall be recognised and maintained. Thus, while the power of the ruler has remained in theory and occasionally in practice absolute, the natural preventives and antidotes to extreme imprudence and mismanagement have to some extent been withdrawn. It is certain that this freedom from fear of the consequences of lax and injurious administration has been to some perceptible extent detrimental in its effects upon their counsellors and officials and upon all those who are influential in the governments of the States.

“Under these circumstances and through the operation of these causes the Supreme Government has been obliged of late years to interpose frequently in the affairs of Native States. The incapacity or the grave misconduct of a ruler has produced complications which have demanded immediate and stringent remedies, or the interval of a long minority has made it necessary to superintend more closely a State's management. Where the government has not been for the time sequestered and placed under British officers, the personal authority of the ruler has ordinarily passed with little

change into the hands of some native minister specially selected for ability. But while the frequent intervention of the British Government in any shape to restore order in a Native State is of itself inconvenient and undesirable and while the expedient of introducing British officers has its obvious drawbacks, the alternative of entrusting very large powers to a single minister however able and energetic has been found by experience to be attended with special disadvantages.

“ The policy now enunciated proceeds upon the broad principle that in order to guard against chronic misrule in a Native State and to obviate the necessity for frequent and arbitrary interposition by the Supreme Government to remedy the consequences of such misrule, it is expedient to avail ourselves of every opportunity of placing some reasonable limitations upon the personal power of the ruler or of the minister to whom the administration may be entrusted. The limitations thus imposed must be brought on public record in order to place them beyond question or controversy ; and in certain cases the general power of supervision to be exercised by the Supreme Government may need to be strengthened and extended. If the application of these principles to Mysore be approved by Her Majesty's Government, they may form the groundwork of a settled policy which will guide the Government of India in the general discharge of its responsibilities towards feudatory States. A new and valuable precedent will have been established and this with the experience which will have been gained in Mysore may enable us in future to deal systematically with similar questions of reorganisation or reform.....”

In August 1879 Viscount Cranbrooke, Secretary of State for India, conveyed his approval of the measures proposed by the Government of India for the gradual adaptation of the then existing administrative system of Mysore to the new conditions in which that State was to be placed on its transfer to native rule. He also agreed with the Government of India that the experiment of placing the Maharaja of Mysore at the head of a Government to be conducted on fixed and fundamental principles was a new departure in the policy of the Imperial Government towards the Native States

of India. To determine the proper method of dealing with those States and of discharging the responsibilities of the British Government towards them had always been a problem of great difficulty. The absolute security against internal revolt now enjoyed by native rulers entailed upon them obligations towards their subjects which they could not be allowed to disregard. It was in the gradual and judicious extension in Native States of the general principles of government which were applied in British territory that their rulers would find the surest guarantee of their administrative independence and the best safeguard against intervention on the part of the Paramount Power. Experience alone could determine how far the proposed system would effect a perfectly satisfactory adjustment of the relative powers of the Maharaja, his Minister and Council, and the British Government. Much would depend on the cordial goodwill and co-operation of the native ruler himself and it was therefore the desire of Her Majesty's Government that no time should be lost in explaining to the Maharaja the changes in the administration which were already in course of execution and the political organisation of which he was intended to be the head. His Highness was then of an age to take a comprehensive and intelligent view of the question which intimately affected his future position, in order that he might form at least a general idea of the system which he would be required to administer.

On the 3rd March 1880 the Government of India informed the Secretary of State that the Chief Commissioner had frequently discussed with and explained to the Maharaja the administrative changes which were being made or were contemplated and the nature of the political institutions over which His Highness was to preside. With regard to the extent to which the direction of the administration would remain in the hands of the Maharaja himself, the Government of India communicated their views to the Secretary of State in these words—"It has never been intended that His Highness' personal authority in State affairs should be other than wide and substantial or that the powers entrusted to the Dewan or to the Council should be exercised independently of the State's ruler. It is most difficult, on the one hand, to define beforehand

with any precision the share of authority to be retained in His Highness' hands without producing the appearance, if not the effect, of limiting that authority; and this we desire not to do formally. On the other hand, it is not easy to settle any exact limitations other than rules of procedure in the transaction of business upon the powers either of the Dewan or the Council which will not in practice be construed as giving them some independent authority within those limitations. According to the system we would introduce, no councillor or ministerial officer would have any constitutional power to act independently of the Maharaja or to issue orders except in His Highness' name and subject to His Highness' revision. Thus the chief authority and the ultimate governmental responsibility would in all classes rest actually as well as nominally with the State's ruler. But we consider it essential under this system of personal government to provide that all important acts and orders shall necessarily have passed through certain departmental formalities and shall have undergone certain regular processes of examination and joint consultation before they issue in the Maharaja's name and by his will. Moreover, since it is obviously necessary that a large part of the details of current business should be disposed of by His Highness' ministers, it is equally necessary that these ministers should have defined duties and responsibilities. For these reasons and with these objects we consider it expedient to give the official advisers and chief ministerial officers a voice in all important deliberations and the right to place on record their views regarding any matter of consequence affecting the administration of the country. Unless some such foothold in the system of Government is secured to the members of the Council, they can scarcely be held answerable either for the proper discharge of their departmental duties or for the advice which they may give to the Maharaja and their influence and utility will be proportionately slight. But beyond this privilege of advising and of recording their advice, the proposed measures would confer upon them no separate status."

Before handing over the administration to the young Maharaja, considerable reductions in expenditure became necessary on account of the fall in the annual revenue due to the famine of 1876-1877.

and this task was undertaken in the period between 1878-1881. The total expenditure in 1878-1879 was Rs. 1,09,50,760 and the same in 1881 on account of revision stood at Rs. 99,96,281. One effect of this revision of expenditure was that intermediate offices of control like those of the Commissioners of Divisions were abolished and District and Sessions Judges were appointed for performing judicial work which was being done by the Commissioners. So far as the higher judiciary was concerned there came to be a complete separation between the executive and judicial functions from this period.

## CHAPTER VII.

### **Re-settlement of political relations with the British Government—(*continued*).**

With their Despatch dated 3rd March 1880 to the Secretary of State the Government of India submitted to him for approval the draft of a written Instrument embodying the conditions under which the young Maharaja was to assume possession of his State and also defining authoritatively his future relations with the Paramount Power. As regards the internal administration of the State, the Instrument advisedly avoided entering upon details but reserved to the Governor-General in Council discretionary power of interposition when he considered it necessary. The draft also in the Preamble made no reference to the preceding engagements which existed between the British Government and Krishnaraja Wodeyar III. The Government of India said that there was no necessity to examine in detail the terms of the previous treaties except so far as it was necessary to reconcile the maintenance of an Indian Dynasty on the Throne of Mysore with the good government of the country and the security of British interests. Agreeing with the view contained in Sir Stafford Northcote's Despatch of 1867, the Government of India also said that the present settlement was to supersede all prior engagements and was to constitute a new departure in the relations between the British Government and the Maharaja's Family.

The first question related to the succession to the Throne of Mysore regarding which this important pronouncement is contained in the despatch: "The Government of India now deals with successions in the ruling families of Native States throughout India upon certain general principles which if not formulated in writing are universally recognised in practice. Where there is a natural heir whose title to succeed is beyond dispute according to law and usage, he succeeds as a matter of course unless he is obviously and totally unfit, though in this as in every other case a succession is thoroughly understood to require formal confirmation and recognition by the Paramount Power, Where the succession is disputed,



the Supreme Government steps in and decides authoritatively according to the usages of the race or the family. Where all heirs natural or adopted fail, the Supreme Government will not only recognise such successor to the rulership of a Native State as on general considerations may seem best but may attach to the succession whatever conditions seem fitting and desirable.....

“It appears to us, nevertheless, expedient in the particular case of Mysore that the main conditions under which the throne will become hereditary in the Maharaja's Family should be distinctly entered upon record. We think this advisable not only for reasons analogous to those which have induced the Government of India to make definite stipulations for the future administration of the country but also because since this Instrument will be in some sense the title-deed of the family, there may be a tendency to regard it as exclusively representing the whole body of rights and liabilities existing between the State and the Supreme Government. The 3rd clause of the Instrument has therefore been so framed as to forestall all controversy regarding the right of the British Government to pass over an heir on the ground of obvious incapacity, or to decide among claimants to the succession, or generally to select a successor among collaterals where no clear pretensions to succeed by inheritance can be established. This last mentioned provision appears very expedient in the case of Mysore where the collateral branches of the Ruling House are remote, while the order of succession among the collaterals is so far as can be ascertained singularly unsettled, obscure and complicated. The form in which the clause has been drawn admits the right of adoption, while it precludes, in our opinion, the possibility of any such difficulty arising as has been produced by doubts as to the right construction of Lord Canning's Adoption Sannads. It will be noticed that no succession will be valid until it shall have been recognised by the Governor-General in Council and that by the last clause of the Instrument the decision of the Governor-General in Council upon any question regarding the succession is final.”

As regards the annual subsidy and the extra contributions to be paid to the British Government for the protection ensured to the

State by that Government, it will be remembered that the claim had been expressed in very general terms in the Subsidiary Treaty of 1799 and in 1807 these indefinite liabilities were commuted to the maintenance of a body of 4000 effective Horse. It was estimated at the time that of this body 3000 Horse represented the additional force which the State was required to maintain for external defence. During the days of the British Commission large reductions in the body of the Silledar force had been sanctioned from time to time and the number in 1880 stood at one-fourth of the number of 4000 mentioned in the treaty of 1807. These reductions, it is understood, were made with the object of economising the State's revenue by limiting the Silledar Horse only to the strength requisite for the needs of internal administration. It was considered very improbable under the military system of the British Government as it existed that the Maharaja would in the future be required to raise the force upon a military footing to its full obligatory complement or to keep up cavalry ready to accompany British troops on foreign service. The existing body of 1000 horsemen was accepted as sufficient for the internal protection of the State and it was proposed that the cost of maintaining the remaining 3000 horsemen calculated at Rs. 10½ lakhs might be added to the Subsidy of Rs. 24½ lakhs, raising it in all to Rs. 35 lakhs per annum.

As regards the land required for British cantonment or for any other establishments or purposes connected with British interests within Mysore, the Government of India said that they assumed that Bangalore would remain in their possession and under complete jurisdiction, although in demarcating the precise limits it was unnecessary to include the whole town which formed the chief centre of provincial trade. The Maharaja, they said, need not be required to yield in full sovereignty the lands required by the British Government. It was sufficient to reserve such lands in occupation on perpetual assignment securing under the Instrument the British Government's right to hold at pleasure these and any other lands which they might require for similar purposes.

The Government of India also now proposed that the opportunity might be taken to make over the island of Seringapatam

absolutely to the Mysore State which was still regarded as British territory though it had been from 1829 in the possession of the Mysore Government upon an annual rent of Rs. 50,000, this rent being entirely remitted for the future.

The external relations of the Mysore State were proposed to be placed on the same footing as those of all Indian States and the Maharaja was to have no political communications with any other State except through the medium of the Government of India. The employment in his service of Europeans was to be subject to the approval of the British Government and jurisdiction over European British subjects could only be exercised by the British Government. In regard to railways and telegraphs in Mysore, the British Government was to be free to reserve power to retain the working of them in their own hands and to assume jurisdiction over railway lands where necessary as had been done in almost all the other States of India. The draft Instrument also stipulated that the consent of the British Government was requisite for the alteration of any laws in force at the time of the transfer and for any material change in the constituted system of any important branch of the administration and also that no title-deeds granted or settlement of land revenue made under British administration were alterable except by a competent law court.

On the 12th August 1880 Lord Hartington who was then Secretary of State in a despatch to the Marquis of Ripon who had succeeded Lord Lytton as Governor-General conveyed the approval of Her Majesty's Government to the draft Instrument of Transfer. In doing so, Lord Hartington while accepting the proposed total subsidy of Rs. 35 lakhs as fair observed that the recent famine in the State had imposed so heavy a burden on its resources that the British Government instead of being able to hand over the country to the Maharaja with a surplus found the revenues of the State burdened with a debt to the Government of India amounting to Rs. 80 lakhs. In these circumstances Her Majesty's Government influenced by a desire not to place any undue burden on the finances of Mysore in the early stage of the Maharaja's rule expressed willingness to postpone the increased subsidy of Rs. 10½ lakhs for a

period of five years from the date of the Maharaja's accession to power. In this despatch Lord Hartington also added that Her Majesty's Government were glad that steps had been taken to explain fully to the Maharaja the administrative changes which were being made or were contemplated as well as the nature of the political institutions over which His Highness was to preside and that it was intended that his share in the work of Government was to be a substantial one, though no doubt it was right that the Maharaja's advisers and chief ministerial officers should have a voice in all important deliberations affecting State affairs.

## **CHAPTER VIII.**

### **Investiture of Chamaraja Wodeyar X with Ruling Powers.**

All preliminary arrangements for transferring the State to the Maharaja's hands having been completed, a Durbar for formally effecting this transfer was held in the Palace at Mysore on the morning of the 25th March 1881. Lord Ripon was not able to be personally present at the Durbar and under his instructions the Right Honourable W. P. Adams, Governor of Madras, represented the Viceroy on behalf of the Government of India. The Governor arrived at the Palace gate with his personal staff escorted by a body of troops and was received with the usual honours. A short time after, the Governor, the Maharaja and J. D. Gordon the Chief Commissioner entered the Durbar hall and took their seats on a raised platform, the Governor seating himself in the centre with the Maharaja on his right and the Chief Commissioner on his left. The British civil and military officers, the Mysore officers and all others invited for the occasion were seated to the right and left of the platform.

The Governor of Madras then rose and said that at the request of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India he was there as his representative, as the Viceroy was unable to be present in person. It gave him, the Governor said, great pleasure to be present on the occasion considering the intimate relationship of the Presidency of Madras with the State of Mysore. He then called upon R. Davidson, Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, to read the following proclamation:—"Whereas in the year 1868 the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council announced by proclamation to the chiefs and people in Mysore that His Highness Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur, the adopted son of the late Maharaja Sri Krishnaraja Wodeyar Bahadur, had been acknowledged by the Government of India as successor to Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar and as Maharaja of the Mysore territories and declared that when His Highness should attain the age of eighteen years the Government

of the country would be entrusted to him, subject to such conditions as might be determined at the time.

"Now, therefore, His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council announces to the chiefs and people of Mysore by command of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India that His Highness Sri Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur is placed in possession of the territories of Mysore and invested with the administration of the Mysore State.

"And His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council declares further to the chiefs and people of Mysore that the administration of the aforesaid territories by the British Government has on this day ceased and determined."

After the proclamation was read, the Maharaja was formally installed at 7-15 a.m. and the Governor on delivering the Instrument of Transfer to His Highness said:—"Maharaja Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur, Maharaja of Mysore—As the representative of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India and in obedience to the proclamation which has just been read, I now invest you with the administration of the State of Mysore and in doing so I desire to offer you my warmest congratulations and on behalf of the Queen-Empress and the Viceroy as well as for myself and all here present I wish you success and prosperity and that you may long continue to rule over a peaceful, happy and contented people. Her Majesty the Queen-Empress always mindful of the gracious words she used in the proclamation to the Princes, Chiefs and people of India in 1858 has by the great act which we celebrate this day given a further practical proof of her desire scrupulously to adhere to that proclamation both in letter and spirit.

"Your Highness—The Queen and Viceroy are well aware of the high and responsible trust which the British Government this day commits to Your Highness' charge. But happily they also know that you have endeavoured to render yourself fit for the great duty that devolves upon you and that under the guidance of Mr. Gordon, the Chief Commissioner of Mysore, you have studied the

principles of Government and by the interest that you have shown therein and also by your own manly life and conduct you have given every indication of becoming a wise, liberal and enlightened ruler. Having therefore this confidence in your good qualities, believing also in the attachment of the chiefs and people of Mysore to Your Highness and in their steadfast loyalty to the British Government, I now on behalf of the Viceroy and Governor-General of India present you with this Instrument of Transfer and pray that God who watches over us whatever our creed may guide you aright in all that you undertake and may bless the act that we perform this day."

The Maharaja in response said :—"Your Excellency—I am deeply sensible of the generosity and kindness which Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has invariably shown to my Family. In now installing me as ruler of the territory of my ancestors Her Majesty has given a further proof of the justice and generosity which the Mysore House has ever experienced at the hands of the British Government. I beg Your Excellency to convey to Her Majesty an expression of my deep, grateful loyalty and attachment to the British Crown and my assurance that it shall be my earnest endeavour by promoting the welfare of the people to prove myself worthy of the confidence reposed in me. I would ask Your Excellency to accept my thanks for the kind interest shown in me on this occasion."

The usual khillats from the Viceroy were then presented to the Maharaja. At this time a telegraphic message arrived from the Viceroy which ran as follows :—"I am commanded by the Queen-Empress to offer to Your Highness Her Majesty's congratulation upon your installation and to express Her Majesty's best wishes for Your Highness' prosperity and that of your country. The Queen-Empress also commands me to thank Your Highness warmly for the very kind and loyal telegram which Her Majesty has received from you." A gentle shower of rain fell at the time the Durbar was held and this incident and the birth of a daughter to His Highness on the 11th March previous were regarded as happy auguries for the future and caused rejoicings among the people,

In the afternoon addresses were presented to the Maharaja from various taluks, towns and districts as well as from Societies and Associations. Among the addresses was one on behalf of the Catholic community of Mysore presented by His Lordship Dr. Coadou in Latin. It was a unique address full of meaning and good sense and a translation of it in English was read by T. R. A. Thumboo Chetty a prominent member of that community and who held a high position in the Mysore Service. The address after offering the felicitations of the community concluded with these words: "We also pray with our whole heart and beseech God that He may grant that wisdom with which He enlightened the heart of King Solomon. May He grant you so to rule that your reign may be a reign of peace and justice, so to govern that under your auspices the good may walk without fear in the path of righteousness and the bad may be frightened out of their evil ways. May God grant that as the throne on which you sit is of refulgent gold so may Your Highness be resplendent with virtues which become a King. May God grant that during your reign the ministers who help you with their counsel and stand round your throne may walk in the ways of justice and that the people subject to your sceptre may enjoy undisturbed peace and happiness....."

His Highness in reply said :—"Those who labour in the cause of religion are always a help to Government and your religion especially may well be credited with inculcating principles of peace and loyalty in the minds of the people. The 26,000 Canarese Christian population of my territories peacefully and zealously following their industrial occupations without any collision with fellow countrymen of other faiths bear testimony to the fact how while propogating your faith you sacredly avoid breaking social institutions or impairing mutual good-will. Permit me, my Lord Bishop, to assure you of my support and sympathy in your disinterested godly work. I am touched by the piece of Jewish history quoted by you. I assure you that trust in God and submission to His Will have ever ruled and shall ever rule the conduct of my family and myself and I look to that high power as my help and guide and for crowning with success my endeavours in the good government of my country and of my people."



On the evening of the same day a second durbar was held at which the following proclamation issued by His Highness was read and was also published in all parts of the State :—"Whereas the Government of the territories of Mysore heretofore administered on our behalf by the British Government has this day been transferred to us by the proclamation of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India in Council, dated this 25th day of March 1881, we do hereby notify and declare that we have this day assumed charge of the said Government and we call upon all our subjects within the said territories to be faithful and to bear true allegiance to us, our heirs and successors.

"We do hereby further declare that all laws and rules having the force of law now in force in the said territories shall continue to be in force within the said territories.

"We do hereby accept as binding upon us all grants and settlements heretofore made by the British Government within the said territories in accordance with the respective terms thereof, except in so far as they may be rescinded or modified either by a competent court of law or with the consent of the Governor-General in Council.

"We hereby confirm all existing courts of Judicature within the said territories in the respective jurisdictions now vested in them and we confirm in their respective appointments the judges and all other officers, civil and military, now holding office within the said territories.

"For the conduct of the executive administration of the said territories under our commands and control we have resolved to appoint a Dewan. And we placing trust and confidence in the loyalty, ability and judgment of Chettipaniam Veeravalli Rangacharlu, C. I. E., do hereby appoint the said Chettipaniam Veeravalli Rangacharlu, C. I. E., to be our Dewan for the conduct of the executive administration of the said territories.

"His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council having complied with our request to lend us the services of

the present Judicial Commissioner Mr. John Douglas Sandford, Bengal Civil Service, Barrister-at-law and Master of Arts to aid us in the administration of justice in our territories, we hereby confirm the same John Douglas Sandford in his appointment under the designation of Chief Judge of Mysore.

“ We have further resolved that a Council shall be formed to be styled ‘ the Council of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore ’ which shall consist of the Dewan for the time being as ex-officio President and of two or more members to be specially appointed by us from time to time. It shall be the duty of the members of the said Council to submit for our consideration their opinions on all questions relating to legislation and taxation and on all other important measures connected with the good administration of our territories and the well-being of our subjects. We are accordingly pleased to appoint Chettipaniam Veeravalli Rangacharlu, C. I. E., Dewan, ex-officio President, Trichnopoly Rayalu Arogyaswamy Thumboo Chetty, Judge, ex-officio member, Purna Krishna Rao, Attupakam Ratna Sabhapathy Mudaliar to be members of the said Council, to hold office as such Councillors for the term of three years or during our pleasure.”

Thumboo Chetty before he joined the Mysore Service was Munsiff of Purgahi in the Bellary district. In February 1867 he was appointed Head Sheristadar of the Judicial Commissioner's Court at Bangalore and at the time of his appointment as senior member of the Council was holding the post of District and Sessions Judge of the Nandidoorg Division. He belonged to the Catholic community and had earned a name for assiduous work and upright conduct. The other two, Purna Krishna Rao and Sabhapathi Mudaliar, were retired officers who had held high positions in the days of the British Commission.

J. D. Gordon (later Sir James) who had shown himself a genuine friend and sincere well-wisher of the young Maharaja was appointed the first Resident of Mysore. He retired from his post as Resident in 1883 on account of illness. In grateful memory of

his services to Mysore a statue was erected later and stands before the public offices at Mysore.

The cantonment area of Bangalore was demarcated and the jurisdiction over it was transferred to the British Government for administrative purposes. The introduction of the Act III of 1880 was regarded as superfluous inasmuch as it was intended for military cantonments in British India, while Bangalore was never merely a military cantonment and was not a part of British India, it being regarded as a mere station in a foreign territory. The Civil and Military Station was to be administered by the civil officers of the British Government under the laws introduced from time to time with the Governor-General's authority. But the Maharaja was to retain sovereignty over the territory, though by the terms of the Instrument of Transfer His Highness renounced the exercise of jurisdiction within it. The Bangalore fort continued to be in the possession of the British Government as the arsenal was kept there and it was not till 1888 that it was transferred to the jurisdiction of the Maharaja in exchange for the Residency.

The Maharaja's Civil List was fixed at Rs. 13 lakhs per annum with the proviso that during the next five years only 10 lakhs were to be appropriated. This amount of 13 lakhs was based on the annual average sum given to Krishnaraja Wodeyar III as 1/5 share of the net revenues of the State. From this amount was to be incurred all charges classed as Palace Charges at the time and generally all expenditure relating to the personal wants of the Maharaja and his family, his relations and dependents apart from the public requirements of the State. The Government of India at the same time looking to the numerous and miscellaneous charges that would fall upon the Civil List admitted the desirability of its revision from time to time.

There was a State banquet at the Jagan Mohan Palace on the night of the day of installation and the Madras Governor in his speech referred to a variety of topics. "In the first and foremost place," he said, "let your Government always be guided by truth.

You have been brought up in the observance of it ; insist upon it in others. Without absolute and pure truth no Government can long stand. I hope you will be recognised as a mild and gentle ruler, but if you show the utmost severity in any cases of deviation from truth, you may be sure of this that the British Government and all good men will support you. Choose your ministers with the utmost care and circumspection, but when you have once chosen a man to act in a confidential position give him your fullest confidence, have no concealment, no corner in your mind which your confidential adviser does not know. Allow no intrigue or outside influence to undermine him in your estimation..... Whoever your Resident may be make a friend of him and go to him for advice in any difficulty. You may depend upon it that he can have no ulterior motive or end to serve and that the advice he gives is meant for your good and for the good of the State of Mysore. You have a large Province to administer. Do not waste too much time in details but endeavour to grasp the large questions and see the country for yourself."

On the 1st April 1881 the Maharaja sent a formal letter to the Viceroy intimating his assumption of the Government of the Mysore territories. "I have to announce to Your Excellency with grateful feelings," said His Highness, "my assumption of the Government of my territories on the 25th March 1881 under the proclamation of the Government of India of the same date and under the Instrument of Transfer which has been delivered to me in due form by His Excellency the Governor of Madras on Your Excellency's behalf. I am deeply sensible of the generosity and kindness which Her Majesty the Queen-Empress has invariably shown to my Family and in now installing me in the Government of the territories of my ancestors Her Majesty has given a further proof of the justice and generosity which the Mysore House has ever experienced at the hands of the British Government. I beg Your Excellency to convey to Her Majesty an expression of my deep and grateful loyalty and attachment to the British Crown and to accept my grateful acknowledgments to yourself and my assurance that it shall be my earnest endeavour by promoting the

welfare of my people to prove myself worthy of the confidence reposed in me."

The Marquis of Ripon on receipt of this letter sent a reply in which among other matters he stated that he had read with pleasure His Highness' assurance that in administering his dominions it would be His Highness' earnest endeavour to promote the welfare of his people and to prove himself worthy of the confidence reposed in him. "It is my sincere hope," concluded the Marquis of Ripon, "that bearing in mind the important duties that now devolve upon you, Your Highness will conduct the administration of your dominion with justice and firmness, so that while securing the affection and prosperity of your people you will maintain the honour of the Mysore State and preserve the cordial relations now existing between the British Government and Mysore."

## **CHAPTER IX.**

### **Economic, social and other conditions in Mysore about the period of the new Maharaja's assumption of power.**

Reference has already been made to the disastrous effects produced by the great famine of 1876-77. A test census was taken on the 19th January 1878 throughout all the villages comprised in one hobli in each of the 51 taluks out of a total number of 68, no census being taken in 17 taluks where the famine had not been severely felt. The area in which the census was thus taken represented 8 per cent of the whole country. The average population of a hobli before the famine was about 8000 persons. In the hoblies in which this partial census was taken the total population as taken in 1878 amounted to 2,94,126 persons as compared with 4,12,934 who were reckoned at the census of 1871, thereby showing a loss of population equal to 28.77 per cent in the areas where the census was taken. It was found that 15.1 per cent of the people had died, that 7.9 per cent had emigrated and that the remainder 5.77 were not accounted for. C. A. Elliot, the Famine Commissioner, calculated that the total loss of population in the whole State amounted to 10,50,000, while Gordon set it at 7 lakhs and the loss in property was estimated at Rs. 10 crores. In any case the mortality from famine in Mysore was deplorably great. Lord Cranbrooke, the Secretary of State, at the time expressed the opinion that it was necessary to investigate how far the melancholy sacrifice of life which had taken place was due to causes which could at the time have been rendered less severe or how far such causes could be counteracted in any future similar visitation. Lord Lytton who, it will be remembered, visited Mysore in 1877 wrote a memorandum in November 1878 and the following extract from this memorandum summarises the disastrous effects of this famine.

“The beginning of the recent calamity was the partial failure of the rains in 1875. The rainfall was from one-third to two-thirds of the average. Much of the food crop was lost; but the stocks of food in Mysore have always been large; and this failure caused only temporary or occasional distress, for the price of food did not

rise to double the ordinary rates. In the year 1876 the rainfall again was short; barely a third of the ordinary harvest was reaped; matters were aggravated by the fact that crops had failed in the adjacent districts of Madras and Bombay; and by the middle of December 1876 famine had begun. From December till March matters grew worse; 500 tons of food (enough to support 900,000 people) were imported daily by railway; yet the price of food ranged during those months at 13 to 15 lbs a rupee; that is to say, at four to five times the ordinary rates. In the months of April and May 1877 the usual spring showers came and hope revived. But as the month of June wore on and as July came, it was apparent that the early rains were going to fail again, and for the third year in succession. Panic and mortality spread among the people; famine increased in the land; and it was not until the bountiful rains of September and October 1877 that the pressure of famine began to abate. During the eight months of extreme famine no crops were reaped; the price of food ranged from 3 to 6 times the ordinary rates, and for the common people there were no means of earning wages outside the relief works. Even in 1877-78 though some relief was felt, the yield of the harvest was less than half the food-crop of an ordinary year. From November 1877 till the present time of writing (November 1878) the price of food has ranged at nearly three times the rate of ordinary years."

The second regular census was taken on the 17th February 1881 and the area of the State at this census was regarded to be 24,723 square miles based upon the measurements of the Revenue Survey then in progress. The total population in 1881 numbered 41,86,000 giving a density of 169 per square mile. In 1841 the population was calculated at 30½ lakhs and in 1851 at a little over 34½ lakhs. In 1860 it was about 38½ lakhs. These estimates were more or less based on the Khaneshumari or village accounts, according to which only an enumeration of families was made. The rate of increase based on these estimates for 29 years was thus 1.16 per cent per annum. The total population in 1871 according to the first regular census was 50,55,412 speaking six different languages—Kanada, Telugu, Tamil, Hindusthani, Marathi and English in the descending order of minority. During the rule of

Haidar Ali and Tippu Sultan which lasted from 1761 to 1799 unceasing warfare not only kept the country in continual turmoil but also led to a great intermingling of various classes in the population. A strong Mahratta element had been introduced into the northern and eastern parts of the present Mysore State by Shahji the father of Sivaji who governed that part of the country on behalf of the Bijapur Kings. Next followed the Mughal Government of Sira. Subsequently, even after the Mysore Rajas had established their power, large tracts in the centre of the country were pledged to the Mahrattas to buy off their repeated invasions. During the last wars of Mysore with the British vast hordes of Lambanies also known as Brinjaries accompanied the march of the latter for the supply of grain, while considerable numbers of Tamil camp followers and traders attended on their footsteps for service and trade and many of these settled in the State. The Telugu-speaking people were mostly the descendants of those who came to the country during the days of the Vijayanagar rule. Taking the normal increase that should have occurred if there had been no famine at only 1 per cent instead of at 1.16 per cent per annum, the population of 1881 showed a decrease of 8,69,224 being a diminution of 17.19 per cent on the previous census largely attributable to the disastrous effects of the famine of 1876-77.

Regarding the civil condition of the population in 1881, 11,55,674 males and 7,57,563 females were single; 8,02,297 males and 8,14,607 females were married; and 1,27,871 males and 5,28,176 females were widowed.

The sale by public auction of women accused of adultery was very frequent even in the earlier days of the British Commission and it was only by a proclamation issued in 1834 that this odious practice by which the Government derived a revenue under the head of Samayachar was completely prohibited. Among Brahmins and Vaisyas females were not sold but expelled from their caste and branded on the arm as prostitutes. They then paid to the contractor an annual sum as long as they lived and when they died, all their property became his. Females of other Hindu castes were



sold by the contractor unless some relative stepped forward to satisfy his demand.

Taking the occupations of the people, the regular commercial classes numbered 45,366 males and 10,142 females; agricultural class numbered 10,08,826 males and 5,99,809 females or a little over 16 lakhs; industrial class 1,28,926 males and 46,034 females; professional class 90,452 males and 4948 females. Among the professional classes those engaged in Government Service numbered 65,015.

There were under instruction in 1881 only 1.63 of the total population. The number of illiterates formed 94.18 per cent of the total population. Only one boy out of 5 of school-going age and one girl out of 100 of the same were under instruction.

Of the total area of land 12,177 square miles were regarded as uncultivable, 5491 square miles as cultivable and 7055 square miles were under cultivation. The amount of payments to Government whether as land revenue or quit-rent was Rs. 68,11,568. In addition, wet lands were charged also with an irrigation cess of one anna per rupee of the land assessment. The total amount of local rates and cess paid on land was Rs. 5,62,558 and was appropriated towards district roads, rural education and other local requirements. House and other taxes were levied in all municipalities. The average incidence of amount of payments per acre of revenue-paying cultivated area was Re. 1-11-3, while that of local rates and cesses per acre of cultivated land was 1 anna 11 pies. The average incidence of rent paid per cultivated acre was Re. 1-8-1.

The exact yield from the land wet or dry cannot be accurately calculated. In 1881, however, it was regarded that an average estimate of 2 Candies per acre (1 Candi being equal to 160 seers) for dry and 3 Candies for wet land was considered not far from the actual produce in a good year. The seed grains came to 8 seers per acre for dry and 25 seers for wet land and the wastage was reckoned at 5 per cent, leaving a residum available for domestic or other purposes. The consumption per head of a labouring adult when well off was generally about 1 seer or 2 lbs a day and rather

above it than below. Taking women, children and infants together along with adult males, the average consumption was about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lbs a day. The usual rate of consumption per head per annum was  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Candies or 480 lbs.

The coffee plantations offered employment to a great number of labourers in coffee-picking which lasted from November to the end of February, when almost all the coolies returned to their villages to observe the Ugadi feast or new year in their own homes only a few remaining in the coffee districts, though a good number returned in April when there was work to be done in hoeing and weeding the planted ground or clearing for fresh plantation. The eastern parts of Hassan and of Mysore were the tracts in which emigration was most common. Tumkur and the western parts of Bangalore also supplied some labour, but none went from Kolar or the east of Bangalore and hardly any from Chitaldrug. These coolies totalling about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs were employed annually in Coorg, Manjarabad, Koppa and Nilgiri plantations. The wages generally given were 4 annas per man and 2 annas 8 pies per woman per day.

Upto the time of the famine there were in the interior of the Malnad labourers called Huttalu and Kondalu with many of the respectable ryots. But after the famine, they almost ceased to exist. Their masters finding it difficult to maintain themselves during the famine did not attempt to prevent these labourers from leaving their service.

The number of towns and villages returned in 1881 was 17,655 which when compared with the 19,630 returned in 1871 showed a diminution of 1975 or 10 per cent.

Mysore the Dynastic capital and Bangalore the chief seat of Government were the only two places in telegraphic communication in 1881 except railway stations on the lines from Bangalore to Mysore and from Bangalore to Jalarpet. From Bangalore, however, telegraphic lines ran through north to Bellary and west via Mercara to Mangalore and Cannanore without intermediate stations. Messages could be wired from Bangalore to all parts of India and the world. In the interior of the country good roads

intersected almost every part and means of communication as compared with the past had become easy.

As regards trade in ordinary years, salt, piece-goods and metals were brought to Bangalore by rail and distributed by country-carts all over the State, ragi, rice, coffee, cocoanut and arecanut being exported in return. The food supply was usually in excess of the local consumption. The ordinary load of a cart was more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  a ton and the ordinary day's march 18 to 20 miles.

## **CHAPTER X.**

### **Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.**

**Establishment of a Representative Assembly—Experiment of establishing Anglo-Indians and Eurasians in agricultural and industrial occupations—Death of Rangacharlu.**

Chamaraja Wodeyar assumed the reins of Government under very favourable circumstances so far as he was personally concerned. The Supreme Government had shown unwearied solicitude in providing for him a general education which was to befit him for the exalted position to which destiny had called him. His Highness had been placed under able tutors who spared no efforts to instil into his mind high ideas of public morality and conduct. His political training was attended to by some of the high officers of the State and the British Government evinced a sincere anxiety that when their young ward was placed in power no occasion should arise for interference similar to that of 1831. No doubt the Instrument of Transfer placed on His Highness' shoulders full responsibility for efficient administration of the country. But, at the same time, care was taken to surround His Highness with expert advisers and to provide him with a machinery of Government which enabled him when dealing with measures coming up for his decision to obtain all facts bearing on the subject at one view in a thoroughly sifted form as well as the opinions of his expert officers who were more or less veterans in the public service. At the time His Highness received the country from the hands of the British there was, however, one great cause of anxiety and that was that the country was just emerging from the evil effects of a disastrous famine which had disorganised the finances of the State burdening it with a debt of 80 lakhs of rupees to the British Government, not to speak of the disappearance of the surplus of about a crore of rupees and of the loss to the country of a million of its inhabitants and of property worth 10 crores of rupees. His Highness and his advisers were fully mindful of the situation in which they were placed and faced their task in the early years with courage and prudence.

The new Government after it was established earnestly wished to provide itself with the means to gauge popular opinion on the measures of Government from time to time. Accordingly, encouraged by Sir James Gordon who was the first Resident after the Rendition the now famous Representative Assembly was brought into existence by a proclamation of the Maharaja, dated the 25th August 1881, only five months after the date of the investiture of the Maharaja with power. In this proclamation it was stated that the object of the establishment of such an assembly was to make better known to the people and better appreciated by them the views and objects of His Highness' Government in the measures adopted for the administration of the State. For the attainment of this object a beginning was to be made by an annual meeting at Mysore immediately after the Dasara festivities of a number of representative landholders and merchants from all parts of the State, before whom the Dewan was to place the results of the past year's administration and a programme of what was intended to be carried out in the coming year. Such an arrangement, it was considered, by bringing the people into immediate communication with the Government would serve to remove from their minds any misapprehension in regard to the views and actions of Government and would convince them that the interests of the Government were identical with those of the people.

The first Assembly the members of which had all been nominated by district officers was attended by 144 members, although the attendance had been declared voluntary. Rangacharlu placed before this Assembly which met on the 7th October 1881 an abstract of the financial position of the country as well as the administrative, industrial and other measures that were in contemplation, and the following paragraph from this address affords instructive reading:—"I must not omit to place before you the important truth that the prosperity of the country can never be assured until the labour of its people yields a surplus over and above the food consumed by them. So long as the labour of the agriculturists scarcely yields the food consumed by them, it is not possible to avoid their complete prostration on the occurrence of a famine or other calamity. Improvement in this respect can only be

effected by diminishing the proportion of the human labour employed in the production of the country by the application of machinery and capital. Irrigation works answer this purpose to some extent as they enable a larger quantity of produce to be raised by the same labour. But on the much wider area of dry lands the produce yielded is scarcely more than sufficient for the consumption of the cultivator and his family. It is even worse with the artisan and manufacturing classes. Hitherto the high rate of interest for money in the country and the cheapness of labour have told against the employment of costly machinery. But now that English capital is being drawn to India on cheap terms and a wide gap has been made in the labouring population by the recent famine, the present time offers a particularly favourable opportunity for raising the status of the people by the introduction of capital and machinery in industrial pursuits. Extensive tracts of good land lie waste for want of labour both in this province and in the neighbouring British territories affected by the famine. They offer a good field for capitalists to bring them under cultivation for the growth of exportable articles by means of steam-ploughs and other machinery. Such an extension of cultivation and manufactures by means of machinery by outstripping the growth of population will tend to increase wages and raise the status of the labourer. At present population increases at a more rapid rate than production and increasing want and poverty is the inevitable result."

The railway from Bangalore to Mysore was opened for through traffic in February 1882 and proved not only a great boon to the country from the beginning but also a profit-yielding concern. The idea of having teak sleepers from the Mysore forests for this line was found not feasible. Although there was a large demand for timber in connection with the construction of Bangalore-Mysore line, it was found cheaper to get Rangoon timber from Madras than to use the timber of the Mysore forests, except to a small extent at the Mysore end of the line. Creosoted pine sleepers which were considered superior to the teak for this particular purpose were brought all the way from Europe by sea and by the railway from Madras and were delivered at Bangalore at cheaper rates than the

Mysore teak sleepers and with a rapidity which could not be hoped for in the Mysore forests.

In 1882 Rangacharlu inaugurated a measure of great financial importance which marked a new policy in obtaining capital for profitable undertakings. In that year in order to extend the railway line from Bangalore as far as Tiptur, a loan of Rs. 20 lakhs was floated by the new Government at 5 per cent interest per annum. Tenders from private English and native gentlemen were received from Madras, Calcutta, Bombay, Allahabad, Peshawar, Karachi, Ahamedabad and other places to the extent of nearly one-half of the loan. The most noticeable feature however was the large amount subscribed in small sums by the ryots and merchants in the Shimoga, Kadur and Tumkur districts showing how much the railway was appreciated by them. It was at the same time realised that the full advantages of the railway could not be obtained unless it was carried to Kadur and the great arecanut mart of Birur and both places brought into nearer communication with Shimoga. In undertaking the local railways it was intended not only to meet the necessary and urgent wants of the people but also to train a select number among them in the working of the railways and of the engines and machinery connected with them. Arrangements were also made for placing a number of native young men of intelligence and good health and physique in the locomotive workshops to receive their training, so that a considerable portion of the working staff might be manned from them in future.

Although reductions to the extent of 8 lakhs of rupees had been effected in the charges of the administration before the country was transferred to the Maharaja's hands, yet the new Government found that further reductions were indispensable, especially as the extension of railways was a pressing need. Rangacharlu was fully alive to the financial situation of the State and in his speech to the Representative Assembly in 1881 observed that it was obligatory on a Government wishing to reduce its expenditure to direct its efforts to a proper retrenchment rather than depend on any vague expectation of deriving an increase of revenue from an impoverished country. Accordingly in 1882 Rangacharlu went to the length of

MEMORANDUM  
BY  
D. P. K.

reducing the eight districts of the State to six by the abolition of Hassan and Chitaldrug districts and by the reduction of 69 taluks to 60 replacing them by 3 sub-divisions under Assistant Commissioners and 17 sub-taluks under Deputy Amildars.

It was a matter for gratification that after the Representative Assembly was instituted in Mysore the Government of India resolved upon a comprehensive scheme for extending self-government in local matters throughout the British territories in India. Their despatch of 8th May 1882 which contained their orders on the subject from its earnestness of purpose, its liberal views and far-seeing statesmanship might be regarded, said Rangacharlu, as introducing a new era in Indian administration. The universal satisfaction with which it had been received throughout India was also proof of the appreciation of the boon by the people and refuted the assertion often made that they were not yet prepared for self-government. The stirring appeal which he then addressed to the representatives is worth recalling to mind even now and bears testimony to the earnestness of purpose with which his mind was actuated. "If the spread of any high degree of education among the great mass of the people were to be insisted upon," he said, "we may have to wait for ever. What is required in the great body of representatives is common sense and practical views which are sure to be possessed by men of ordinary knowledge engaged in industrial and other useful occupations. The real education for self-government can only be acquired by the practical exercise of representative functions and responsibilities under the guidance, as observed by the Government of India, of officers possessed of administrative tact and directive energy and evincing an earnest interest in the success of the experiment..... It cannot be too often impressed on the representatives that in the discharge of the important functions entrusted to them they are expected to evince a true public spirit and to be actuated by considerations not of any personal wants or grievances or of even those of any particular caste or section of the community only but considerations of the interest of the public at large. It cannot however be concealed that Government officers themselves require as much education in the matter as the less informed representatives



of the people and earnestness on their part to promote the public interest, not to mention considerations of personal distinction and importance, begets a desire to devise and carry out what appear to them useful works; and this is not unnaturally followed by intolerance of difference of opinion or opposition from others. These have to give way to the higher qualities of a patient and watchful interest in the proceedings of others which they must be content to guide and direct by advice and suggestions without any abatement of their earnestness to promote the public interests. District officers have to be strongly imbued with the idea that in municipal and other matters the public interests are better served by diffusing sound ideas on the subject amongst the people and thereby inducing them to work out the results for themselves than by the Government doing the work for them. Though the objects arrived at may not be accomplished so promptly and successfully as by Government agency, the result will be enduring and will have a spreading influence amongst the people and will be less subject to those changes which often characterise the improvements initiated by public officers.

“Whatever Government or any few outsiders can do must be small compared with what the great mass of the population engaged in industrial pursuits could accomplish in their several occupations when stirred up by a desire for advancement. When all the world around is working marvellous progress, the 200 millions of people in India cannot much longer continue in their long sleep simply following the traditions of their ancestors of 2000 years ago and earning a miserable subsistence, ready to be crushed on the first occurrence of a famine or other calamity. Steam began to be utilised in Europe as a motive power only in the beginning of the 19th century. India then used to export cloths to England. Now England notwithstanding a severe competition from the other countries of Europe and America supplies the greater portion of the world with cloths and other manufactures. These are not the fruits of any large individual discoveries which alone can attract the attention of the official mind but the result of numerous individual men devoting their intelligence to effect small discoveries and improvements from day to day in their several occupations which

in their aggregate produce such marvellous wealth and general prosperity. What then may not be accomplished if the large population in this country once entered on a similar career of progress. The one great problem to be solved by Indian statesmen is how the people could be raised from the crushing influence of officialdom and stirred up to industrial enterprise and progress."

A unique experiment of establishing Anglo-Indians and Eurasians on the land received encouragement from the Mysore Government at this time. A Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association had been formed in 1879 for the purpose of improving the economic condition of the families belonging to this community and industrial and agricultural pursuits were intended to be largely encouraged among them. To begin with, a boot and shoe factory was started and a number of young Eurasians were apprenticed to various trades. A land scheme was also taken in hand which aimed at the formation of agricultural settlements or colonies. The Mysore Government lent ready aid by granting in July 1881 nearly 4000 acres of land selected by the Association to be held free of assessment for the first five years. With the help of Sir James Gordon special sanction was obtained for holding a lottery in order to raise funds for starting the scheme. One lakh was thus obtained, but half of it was allotted for prizes. The original intention was to establish four colonies:—

ACRES.			
Glen Gordon	...	527	} To the west of Bangalore on the Magadi Road.
Haldwell Green	...	757	
Whitefield	...	542	} 12 miles east of Bangalore.
Sausmond	...	926	

This novel venture however, it may be stated, did not fulfil all the expectations formed of it. There are at present only two settlements Whitefield and Sausmond where some Eurasians and Anglo-Indians reside.

The encouragement given by the Mysore Government to this novel venture on the part of the Eurasian community was however based upon very laudable motives. In 1882 in his address to the

Representative Assembly Rangacharlu explained that the first object of making large grants of land to this community was to enable such of the members as were in need of occupations to find a home and the means of pursuing agricultural industry. It was also hoped at the time that if the experiment succeeded it would have an important bearing on the general agriculture and industry of the country, as agricultural improvements of foreign countries were likely to be readily adopted by them and when tried practically and successfully would be taken up by the people in general.

Rangacharlu however was not destined to live long and carry out his ideas. In the latter part of December 1882 he was taken ill and went to Madras. He was expected to return in about a fortnight. But fate willed it otherwise. He died at Madras on the 20th January 1883 and his death was deeply deplored by all. He was 52 years old at the time. His high talents and unblemished integrity of character won for him the admiration of all who knew him. His simple habits and warmth of heart always attracted to him a large circle of friends. His memory is now perpetuated by a building constructed at Mysore known as the Rangacharlu Memorial Hall where on one of the walls hangs an oil-painting of his likeness.

## CHAPTER XI.

### Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.

#### **Appointment of Sir K. Seshadri Iyer as Dewan—Steps taken to improve the finances of the State.**

The choice of a Dewan for a Native State is always a matter of some difficulty as a number of conflicting claims require to be balanced before any decision can be arrived at. At this time three candidates were prominently mentioned for the place. The first was P. N. Krishna Murthi who was a direct descendant of the great minister Purnaiya and the fifth holder of the jahagir of Yelandur granted to his ancestor. Krishna Murthi was regarded as the first nobleman of the country. He was 32 years of age. The other two T. R. A. Thumboo Chetty and K. Seshadri Iyer though they came as strangers to Mysore had served long under the Mysore Government. Thumboo Chetty was 46 years old and Seshadri Iyer 38 years. The official status of all these officers was more or less equal, Krishna Murthi and Seshadri Iyer being heads of districts and Thumboo Chetty a District Judge. Krishna Murthi from his long ancestral connection with the State had considerable local support, though he was the youngest of the three. Thumboo Chetty had a reputation for rectitude and conscientious discharge of duty. He was already a member of the State Council though in an ex-officio capacity. Seshadri Iyer was yet unknown to the people as possessing any special merits. It took about 3 weeks for the choice to be made and it was at last announced that the Maharaja had selected Seshadri Iyer as his Dewan. The announcement evoked no enthusiasm at the time and it is said that it took even Seshadri Iyer by surprise. He had begun his official life in 1866 as Translator in the Collector's office in his native town of Calicut in the Madras Presidency and later there being need in Mysore for the services of capable English-knowing men, Seshadri Iyer at the suggestion of Rangacharlu was appointed Judicial Sheristadar in the Superintendent's office at Mysore, which post he joined on the 30th October 1868. He took the B.L. Degree of the Madras University in 1874. In 1879 he was Deputy Commissioner and

District Magistrate of one of the districts and from August 1881 he had been placed on special duty in the Dewan's office under Rangacharlu. Seshadri Iyer entered upon his new duties with great earnestness and wisdom and proved himself a man of undoubted talents.

The finances of the State, as we have already seen, were in a disorganised state and on assuming office the new Dewan found that he was faced with a serious situation which required prompt attention. The retrenchments begun in 1878-79 and continued even after the Maharaja came to power did not yield a saving of more than 8 lakhs of rupees a year. The average annual revenue as then developed was not expected to bring in more than 102 lakhs which included the cost of collection Rs. 10½ lakhs. Against the net amount of Rs. 91½ lakhs were ear-marked certain fixed charges amounting to about Rs. 48 lakhs such as the Subsidy, the Civil List, Interest on Famine and Railway loans. Early in 1884 the British Government took over under its direct management from the Durbar the administration of the Assigned Tract forming the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore and the surplus revenue which this tract was yielding was thereby lost to Mysore. The available amount for public works and civil administration was less than 44 lakhs of rupees. The average total expenditure of the State on the minimum calculation could not, it was found, be reduced below Rs. 99½ lakhs and the State was therefore faced with a deficit of 7 to 8 lakhs of rupees a year, unless a remedy was found in time. On account of the large departmental reductions already noticed the administration had become very much centralised and in the hands of the Dewan was concentrated the control of all the principal departments such as the Land Revenue, Forests, Excise, Mining, Police, Education, Muzrai and Legislation, and it had become apparent that without close supervision by separate departmental heads the work of the departments must deteriorate, as it was impossible for one man, whatever his capacity, to do justice to this extraordinary multiplicity of work.

Seshadri Iyer's first attention in the circumstances in which he was placed was naturally turned to find means of meeting the deficit

and finding funds for improving the efficiency of the administration. It should be said to his credit that in 1884 only a little more than a year after he became Dewan when he had yet to consolidate his position, he made bold to put forward a strong plea for the payment of the surplus revenue of the Station and even carried an appeal to the Secretary of State, though without success. The surplus however that had accumulated till then was allowed to be appropriated towards a partial payment of the Subsidy.

Seshadri Iyer took this disappointment calmly and turning his attention to the enhanced Subsidy of Rs. 10½ lakhs and finding that the period during which it had been suspended had only two years more to run submitted with the full concurrence of the Maharaja a vigorous representation to the Government of India for the remission of this new burden. There was, he said, no special elasticity about the revenues of Mysore. In the first three decades of the 19th century the annual average revenue was Rs. 86½, Rs. 86½ and Rs. 76 lakhs respectively. In the first three decades after the British assumption of the Government in 1831 it was Rs. 70½ lakhs, Rs. 76 and Rs. 84½ lakhs respectively. The subsequent increase whereby the maximum average of Rs. 105 lakhs was reached in the decade before the famine was due to rise in prices owing to such exceptional causes as the American Civil War which caused a great demand in England for Indian cotton on account of the supply from America having failed. Agricultural operations in Mysore depended upon a rainfall which was most uncertain. The Revenue Survey and Settlement was not expected to produce any large increase and required also a long number of years for its completion. The incidence of taxation taking into account the Rs. 12 lakhs which the Mysore population was contributing to the salt revenues of British India was already so high as Rs. 2.4-0 per head per annum and increase of revenue by additional taxation was therefore out of question. The country was likely to require half a century to recover from the terrible loss of population and property due to the famine. An income thus reduced without any immediate prospect of any material growth had also to meet some new charges such as interest on Famine and Railway loans, the increase to the Civil List, augmentation of pensionary

charges, remuneration of village servants in taluks where the new Survey and Settlement had been introduced in substitution of *Mirasi* or grain payments. The enhancement of the Subsidy to Rs. 35 lakhs in these circumstances would, urged Seshadri Iyer, reduce the amount required for the ordinary administration of the country to a sum with which it was impossible to maintain good Government. The extension of the railway line to Harihar which was the terminus of the Southern Mahratta Railway was an important work of famine protection and it was a duty in the eyes of the Mysore Government to execute it without any delay.

J. B. Lyall was the British Resident at this time and had succeeded Sir James Gordon the first Resident who retired from service and proceeded to England on account of illness. Lyall's abilities were of a high order and his political views were of a statesmanlike character. Seshadri Iyer's representation strongly supported as it was by the new Resident received sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Government of India as well as of the Secretary of State, with the result that the extra levy of Rs. 10½ lakhs was further postponed for a period of 10 years till the end of March 1896. In his address to the Representative Assembly in October 1885 the Dewan in expressing gratitude for this boon on the part of the British Government said that it was only a fresh but a very signal illustration of the generous treatment which the Mysore State had invariably received at the hands of the Paramount Power, for it enabled the Mysore Government to maintain the administration at least at the standard of efficiency as it stood then.

No Government however, it was recognised, could be content with merely marking time or doing the routine business that came to its hands from day to day. All the departments were in great need of improvement and a scheme of decentralisation was an urgent necessity. Immediate measures also were necessary to afford the country protection against the uncertainties of seasons, not to speak of the distresses deepening into famines at times. The liquidation by instalments of the debt due to the Government of India as well as the payment of interest at 5 per cent per annum

imposed a great strain on the finances of the State as they stood at the time. Some way however had to be found for the immediate introduction of some of the improvements which were essential for the normal life of the country. During the famine of 1876-78 the tracts of country that suffered most were over 50 and 100 miles from the nearest railway and the area now situated on either side of the Bangalore-Harihar line was found to have suffered the severest distress and this part of the country therefore needed the earliest protection from the spectre of a future famine.

The State had already constructed 141 miles of railway from Mysore to Gubbi from its own resources supplemented by a public loan of Rs. 20 lakhs and it was also in a position to carry the line as far as Tiptur. The line from Tiptur to Harihar 125 miles in length had already been surveyed. But the construction could not be undertaken as the resources of the State, it was found, could not be safely relied on to yield a surplus revenue every year and even then it would be many years before the line could reach Harihar. In these circumstances the Durbar agreed to a proposal made by the Government of India that the extension from Gubbi to Harihar should be executed with foreign capital. The Secretary of State on behalf of Mysore negotiated a loan with the Southern Mahratta Railway Company of £1,200,000 at 4 per cent interest per annum on the hypothecation of the whole line including the line from Mysore to Tiptur and the Company also was entrusted with the work of construction from Tiptur to Harihar. This measure enabled the Durbar to discharge in full in 1889, earlier than it would have been otherwise possible, the famine debt of Rs. 80 lakhs due to the Government of India by appropriating for that purpose the amount of the refund of a little over 68 lakhs, the cost incurred by the Mysore Government till then for the construction of the line upto Tiptur.

By this time the Durbar was also relieved to a very large extent of its financial embarrassments by the growth of its land revenue and by the development of other sources of revenue. The land revenue which had suffered greatly from the effects of the famine reached Rs. 87 lakhs in the year 1886-87 out of which excluding the



collections of old arrears, 80 lakhs of rupees was regarded as the amount of normal land revenue per year.

Among the other items of revenue which contributed to the growth of the finances might be mentioned Excise, Forest and Gold Mining. The Abkari or the excise revenue yielded in the year 1881 only a little over Rs. 10½ lakhs and by 1892-93 the year previous to that of Chamaraja Wodeyar's death it almost trebled itself. This large increase was due not to any extraordinary growth of intemperance on the part of the consumers but to the adoption of more effective measures to intercept the revenue which was going into other pockets and to divert it to the State treasury. As regards arrack, the policy followed was one of gradual enhancement of duty. In 1881 there existed differential rates of duty per gallon in different parts of the State. But these varying rates were later assimilated to a uniform rate while the selling price continued at the old rate. Further, all outlying distilleries were abolished and a new system of manufacture and distribution under centralised control was introduced. In 1892 the manufacture of arrack was separated from that of distribution. By this measure the Government was able to attract to the business of manufacture the capital, resources and technical knowledge of a large Madras firm Messrs. Parry & Co. and thereby to reduce the cost of the manufactured article. The right to vend liquor was separately sold throughout the State. In the case of Bangalore and Mysore cities and the Kolar Gold Fields individual shops were sold and elsewhere clusters of villages and only in a few cases entire taluks. The work of vending was thus placed in the hands of persons of local knowledge whose watchfulness in their own interest was a most useful check upon illicit distillation in their respective tracts. The increase of duty which involved no increase of price to the consumer and of the sale of the right of vend had the effect of securing to Government money which till then formed the profits of middlemen.

As regards toddy, the system in existence was one of eight large District Farms for the entire State. These farms were given out for terms of three years for the highest tender by a limited

number of persons whose standing in the business practically excluded all outside competition. Under this system owing to the existence of a series of middlemen between the Government and the contractor the State did not derive its proper share of the revenue and owing to the want of sufficient control the date groves themselves deteriorated to such an extent as in some places to imperil the toddy revenue of the future, while in many instances the quality of toddy supplied to the public was so bad as to drive many persons accustomed to this comparatively innocent drink to the more harmful arrack. To remedy these defects, the eight large farms were divided into smaller farms numbering 1236. The increase of revenue was due not to any increase in the number of shops but almost entirely to the abolition of needless intermediaries between the Government which owned the date groves and the small farmer who supplied a certain number of shops from a particular grove or part of a grove.

There was a progressive rise in the Excise revenue during the thirteen years of Chamaraja Wodeyar's reign and 63 per cent of the rise in the incidence of total taxation was more or less due to this source. The moral and social aspects of this large increase of Excise revenue require some consideration on account of their importance. The increased revenue from toddy was almost wholly the result of improved management, while that from arrack was due to both improved management and increased consumption. Compared with 1881-82 there was a total increase of revenue of a little over 12 lakhs of rupees in 1894, of which Rs. 5,67,000 represented increased consumption. This increased consumption was however chiefly among migratory gangs of coolies and artisans employed in the Gold Mines, mills, public works, buildings and coffee plantations. Altogether 3,94,751 gallons of arrack were consumed during 1893-94 giving a consumption of 4.1 drams per head of population. In the Kolar Gold Fields there was a labour population of 11,000 including women and children constituting 1/440 of the total population of the State and they consumed 43,937 gallons which was a little over 1/9 of the total consumption for the whole State giving a consumption per head of nearly 4 gallons. In the large city of Bangalore which was the chief centre

of industry in the State the consumption was 37.8 drams per head of population, while the large cooly population living in the outskirts of the Bangalore City and Cantonment swelled the arrack consumption of the taluk to 14.3 drams per head. Owing to similar conditions in the Mysore City the rate of consumption was 18.3 drams per head. In the coffee tracts of Manjarabad, Koppa, Chikmagalur and Mudigere the rate of consumption was 10.9 drams per head. These figures showed that 10½ per cent of the total population of the State resident at the time in the Gold Fields, the Mysore City, the Bangalore City and taluk and the coffee tracts were responsible for 52 per cent of the total consumption of the State.

Another method of increasing the resources of the State was undertaken by the closer conservancy of forests than before. Several State forests were extended and a large number of valuable jungle tracts which were in varying stages of denudation were brought under proper conservancy. The solution of the fuel problem had become pressing. The railway extension to Harihar, the advancing Kolar Gold Industry, the cotton and woollen mills at Bangalore and a rising population with expanding cultivation tended to enormously increase the demand for fuel and to diminish the source of its supply. There thus arose the necessity for carefully conserving large jungle tracts and as many of them as possible, more especially those in the vicinity of the railway. The spontaneous growth of timber in forests and of fuel in reserved jungle tracts was supplemented by plantations on an extensive scale. In 1893-94, 65.37 per cent of the forest revenue was derived from sandalwood and 34.63 per cent from all other sources such as timber or wood-fuel.

Gold Mining also began to yield a revenue from the year 1886-87 and for the first time a Royalty of Rs. 47,000 at 5 per cent on the production found its entry in the budget and this item of revenue gave a continuous increase every year subsequently.

Leaving out of account the income from the State Railways as well as that of the C. & M. Station of Bangalore, the total revenue

of the State which was slightly over Rs. 104 lakhs in 1881 rose to nearly Rs. 167 $\frac{3}{4}$  lakhs in 1893-94, the increase being over 61 per cent. This revenue was derived from taxes properly so called as well as from sources which were not really taxes. In Mysore the heads of Land Revenue, Excise, Mohatarfa, Sayer, Stamps and Registration were at the time taken as coming under taxation proper. Taking the revenue under these heads only, there was an increase from Rs. 93,04,000 to Rs. 1,38,12,000 or 48 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The income from sources other than taxes such as Royalty from Gold Mining, forest revenue and similar items nearly trebled itself during the same period. The rise in the incidence per head of population was from Rs. 2-4-4 $\frac{1}{2}$  to Rs. 2-13-7 $\frac{1}{2}$  or 25 $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. Thus the amount of increase was 9 annas and 3 pies.

The assets and liabilities of the State on 31st March 1881 the opening year of Chamaraja Wodeyar's rule were—assets a little above Rs. 49 $\frac{1}{4}$  lakhs, liabilities nearly Rs. 30 $\frac{3}{4}$  lakhs; on the 30th June 1895 the closing year of the same rule—assets a little above Rs. 3 crores and 60 lakhs, liabilities nearly Rs. 1 crore and 84 lakhs, excess of assets over liabilities a little above Rs. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$  crores as compared with the excess of assets of a little more than Rs. 18 $\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs in March 1881.

## **CHAPTER XII.**

**Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.**

**Improvement of administrative efficiency.**

**More judges for the Chief Court—Revenue Code, Local Boards Bill—Separate Legislative Branch in the Secretariat—Some important Regulations passed including the Prevention of Infant Marriage Regulation.**

We have seen that on account of the famine of 1876-1877 the administrative efficiency of the State had suffered considerably and various measures were now adopted to revive and improve that efficiency. The Judicial Department claimed the earliest attention. Sir James Gordon in his minute dated 10th February 1879 had represented to the Government of India the need of a High Court for Mysore with a plurality of judges instead of only a single judge designated Judicial Commissioner. On account of restricted finances the question had however been postponed and at the time of the Rendition beyond calling the highest court the Chief Court of Mysore and the single presiding judge as the Chief Judge nothing more had been done. In 1883 Seshadri Iyer conveyed the cheering news to the members of the Representative Assembly that the Maharaja had decided upon the introduction of a plurality of judges from May 1884. Regulation I of 1884 governing the Chief Court was subsequently passed. The number of judges was raised from 1 to 3 and Section 11 of the new Regulation prescribed that where in any suit or proceeding it was necessary for the Chief Court to decide any question regarding succession, inheritance, marriage or caste or any religious usage or institution, the Mahomedan law where the parties were Mahomedans and the Hindu law where the parties were Hindus, or any custom (if such there was) having the force of law and governing the parties or property concerned was to form the rule of decision, unless such law or custom had by legislative enactment been altered or abolished and that where no rule existed, the Chief Court was to act according to justice, equity and good conscience. When Thumboo Chetty was Chief Judge, he

arranged at the request of the members of the bar for the publication weekly of a digest of important decisions and rulings of the Chief Court.

The revenue administration of the State was found to be dependent on mere executive orders and circulars issued from time to time and a Revenue Code was imperatively needed to remove most of the difficulties and defects which marred the revenue administration and also to set at rest many important differences of opinion. A Bill based mostly on the Bombay Revenue Code was prepared and explained by Seshadri Iyer to the members of the Representative Assembly at the meeting held in October 1883. The Bill was a pretty large one and also of great importance, considering the subject to which it referred. Some of the chief matters codified referred to the relation of land-lord and tenant, the rights of Government in land, and the mining and forest rights of the Government and of the occupants of agricultural lands, upon all of which there existed at the time neither any definite nor any uniform practice. The rules for the recovery of Government revenue had been varied so frequently by executive orders that precedents could be quoted on almost any side of a case involving the public and sometimes the revenue officers themselves in useless litigation attended with much expense and delay. In the new code the provisions relating to these and other matters were simplified and while care was taken for the proper collection of revenue, private rights to property were adequately protected. The rights and obligations of Inamdars and their tenants were definitely defined in strict accordance with usage. Provision was made for protecting tenants from capricious enhancement of rents by Inamdars, the grounds on which and the mode in which the rents were enhanceable being definitely prescribed. Where written leases were executed, the Inamdars were given the right to recover the demands through the revenue authorities as if they were demands for Government land revenue. The jurisdiction of civil courts in revenue matters had been vague and these courts were considered competent to take cognisance of almost any revenue matter. The Bill now excluded in clear terms from the jurisdiction of civil courts only such matters as had immediate reference to the

appointment, dismissal and remuneration of village servants, the assessment and realisation of the Government revenue and the protection of tenant rights. In October 1884 the Dewan again referred to this Bill at the meeting of the Representative Assembly and while stating that it had undergone thorough revision at the hands of a committee composed of able and experienced officers mentioned also that except on a few points (which need not be specified here) no material alterations had been suggested by the committee.

This Revenue Bill formed the subject of discussion between the Mysore Government and the British Residents of the period and it was finally forwarded in 1886 for the approval of the Government of India. This Government, however, took a long period of more than two years to accord their sanction and the Bill became law only with effect from 1st April 1889, thereafter limiting as far as possible the former uncertainties of the revenue administration due to varying executive actions based on individual temperaments. Sir James Lyall and Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick were the British Residents whose co-operation was regarded as most valuable in the promulgation of this piece of legislation. Reference has already been made to the former and as regards the latter it may be stated that he was an able lawyer who had an intimate knowledge of the various Indian enactments and of the debates connected with them and always looked out for facts.

Advantage was taken of the introduction of this Regulation to inaugurate a system for the regular hearing and disposal of all revenue matters coming before the Government in appeal or revision. The Revenue Code excluded, as has been mentioned already, from the jurisdiction of the civil courts an important class of questions which arose before the revenue authorities and it was essential that these and other matters involving rights often of a quasi-judicial nature should not be finally decided without thorough investigation and without full opportunities being given to the parties interested to support their claims and contentions. It was therefore ordained by the Maharaja that all revenue appeals and revision cases coming up before the Government were to be heard

and decided at least by two members of the State Council and that the procedure adopted was to be generally that of the civil courts.

Another subject which also engaged the attention of the Maharaja's Government at this time was the broadening of self-government in local matters. Rangacharlu had touched upon this subject in 1882 in his address to the Representative Assembly and in 1883 when Seshadri Iyer met the representatives he also referred to this subject and called attention to a draft Local Boards Regulation which had already been published in the official Gazette. This Bill when it became law was to supersede the rules issued by the Chief Commissioner in 1874 for the formation of District Committees and for purposes to be carried out by them. These rules were found defective on account of the preponderance of the official members, absence of reasonable powers of disposal over the funds and the unlimited subordination of the Committees to Government officers in the administration of these funds. The new Bill assumed the taluk or the existing sub-division of a taluk to be the unit of area for which a Local Board was to be constituted. As one chief cause of the inefficiency of the existing District Committees lay in the fact that their members did not possess the requisite local interest and local knowledge, it seemed evident that if the system was to have a fair trial a beginning was to be made with a Taluk Board. The functions of these Boards were, to start with, to relate to such matters as elementary education, medical, charitable and other similar institutions, local plantations and water-supply. As regards the constitution of these Boards, the Bill provided for a preponderance of the non-official element in them but left to Government as to whether the members were to be appointed by nomination or by election by the rate-payers. It also provided for an official or an elected President. This course, assured the Dewan, had been advisedly adopted in the public interest in order to prevent failure in their working. "Village communities" said the Dewan "have not yet recovered from the severe blow which owing to political causes they sustained early in the century; and administrative activities have to be revived and nurtured after a long period of disuse under an



autocratic Government. Under such circumstances, it is not surprising to find the greater part of the Province unprepared at present for the elective system..... How soon the elective system can be extended to any particular Taluk Board will depend upon the appreciation of its labours by the people interested; for without such appreciation, it will not be advisable to resort to such election in any case. The non-official members of the District Board which is to be constituted for each district or sub-division of a district, will, however, all be delegates from the Taluk Boards, and it will at first be under the presidency of the District or Sub-Division officer as the case may be....."

Referring to the Taluk Boards, one of their functions, said the Dewan, would relate to elementary education. This was an important subject as the hobli schools had proved not an adequate medium for the wide spread of elementary education. It was found that they were wanting in that popular element in their constitution and direction which alone could give them success and it had therefore been provided in the Bill that the Local Boards assisted by Village Boards where practicable were to take entire charge of these schools, manage them with the funds that were made available for them, appoint and dismiss the masters at their own discretion, the Government interference being limited to the prescribing of the proper standard of education for them and to providing the Board with a good and competent staff of inspectors. Next in importance to education, observed the Dewan, was the establishment of hospitals and dispensaries in places where the Boards deemed them to be required and the formation of a body of travelling dispensers of medicine at times of cholera and other epidemics was to come under the jurisdiction of these Boards; and similarly, institutions of charity such as Chatrams and Dharmasalas. The Bill did not specifically provide for the transfer of all Government Muzrai institutions to the Boards' management, but there existed provision for such transfer whenever such step was likely to be attended with advantage. Charitable institutions, especially the feeding chatrams would, it was expected, fare better under the Boards' management than they did under the

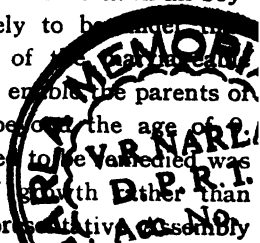
Government, thereby obviating the long-standing complaints of mismanagement and speculation against these institutions. It was also proposed to entrust works of irrigation such as tank repairs to the District Local Boards and that as the majority of the members would naturally belong to classes having large interests in agriculture in all parts of the district, it was likely that all important tanks throughout the district would receive their due share of attention. This Bill was submitted to the Government of India in April 1885. But it was received back after nearly a year with an exhaustive minute by C. E. R. Girdlestone who was then the British Resident and further discussion became necessary.

After the Rendition though a Representative Assembly came into existence no separate Legislative Council was formed. But a separate department was constituted in 1886 in the head office under the superintendence of an officer designated the Legislative Secretary. The European members of the United Planters' Association pointed out more than once the need of such a council as suited to the age in which they lived. Among the reasons which influenced the Durbar not to countenance the proposition put forward, the main one was that it would not be possible with a Legislative Council as part of the constitution to give effect in practice to the principle laid down by the Government of India that the chief authority and ultimate responsibility was in all cases to rest actually as well as nominally with the State's Ruler. Under the Instrument of Transfer the people of Mysore including the European planters had a guarantee that the British laws in force in Mysore at the time of the Rendition would not be altered by the Mysore Government without the concurrence of the Governor-General in Council. Any special legislation required by the planting community of Mysore could be easily introduced with the previous approval of the Government of India. The legislative measures, it was stated, which necessarily were required for a progressive administration mostly followed those introduced for British India and the modifications required for their adoption in Mysore were made by the executive government in consultation with the British Resident and were promulgated in the State with the sanction of the Maharaja.

A number of other Regulations were passed during the reign of Chamaraja Wodeyar and an enumeration of some of the important ones will show to what subjects they related :—1. Mysore Civil Court Regulation of 1883. 2. Mysore Chief Court Regulation of 1884. 3. The Mysore Legal Practitioners Regulation of 1884. 4. The Mysore Land Revenue Code of 1888. 5. The Land Improvement Loans Regulation of 1890. 6. The Mysore Arms Regulation of 1890. 7. The Mysore Factories Regulation. 8. The Mysore Railways Regulation. 9. The Mysore Infant Marriages Prevention Regulation.

The last Regulation was an important piece of social legislation. The imperative need of this legislation was brought home to the Government from the figures relating to marriages revealed in the census report of 1891. The number of married girls under 9 was 18,000 as compared with only 12,000 in 1881. The increase was 50 per cent whereas the increase of population during the same period of 10 years was only 18 per cent. Again out of 9,71,500 married women in the country in 1891 the statistics specially collected at the census showed that 11,157 had been married at or before the age of four (74 in the first year, 349 in the second, 2347 in the third and 8387 in the fourth) and 1,81,000 between the ages of 5 and 9. Of the girls married before nine, 3560 were found to be widows at that early age. In regard to boys, it had been ascertained that 512 had been married before four, 8173 between 10 and 14 thus giving a total of 81,516 boys, all married before 14.

The proposed raising of the marriageable age of boys to 14 was expected to react beneficially on the marrying age of girls. For, considering the disparity that generally prevailed between husband and wife it was not too much to infer that in all boy-marriages under 14 the girls were more likely to be under 10, above 9 years of age and therefore the raising of the marriageable age of boys to 14 would, it was considered, enable the parents of nearly 82,000 girls to put off their marriage beyond the age of 9. These facts established that the evil attempted to be remedied was one of some magnitude showing signs more of growth than of decline. The progressive party in the Representative Assembly



urged on the Government in the light of the census figures the need of some prohibitory legislation and thereupon the Government consulted the heads of religious institutions who expressed the opinion that such marriages were opposed to the spirit of the Sastras. The general popular sentiment was also found to be in favour of some kind of prohibition. The Government, however, wished to move cautiously and explained to the Assembly in 1892 that as a beginning it was proposed to prohibit marriages of girls below 8 years and those of men above 50 years of age with girls below 16 years. It was inexpedient to treat such marriages if they took place as altogether void, as the nullity of such marriages would involve endless difficulties regarding legitimacy of children born and their rights of inheritance. The utmost therefore that was intended to be done was to visit the persons responsible for such marriages with criminal penalties.

A draft Regulation on the lines above indicated was published in 1893 with the view of affording the fullest opportunity for discussion and criticism. In his address to the Representative Assembly held in October of that year Sir Seshadri Iyer observed that though the Bill was regarded in a few quarters as an undue interference with the liberty of the subject, yet the measure had been framed in response to the general sentiment of the country which demanded under the authority of the law the abolition of certain usages which were as much opposed to the spirit of the Hindu Sastras as to the best interests of society. This Bill was finally passed into law in the latter half of 1894 embodying some of the more valuable suggestions made at the meetings of the Representative Assembly. The Dewan impressed upon the members of the Representative Assembly that met in October 1894 that His Highness the Maharaja wished the Regulation to be particularly regarded as an important measure of protection against a growing evil of some magnitude.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.

#### Improvement of administrative efficiency—(*continued*).

**Anche or Local Post—Life Insurance—Civil Service examination—Status of village servants—Offer of Imperial Service Troops—Revision of the State Council.**

Among the measures adopted during this period for the improvement of administrative efficiency were two which elicited much comment. The first one related to the Anche or local post and the second was the institution of a Civil Service examination open to the whole of India. The Anche, no doubt, needed much improvement and two alternative proposals were received from the Director-General of Post Offices in India. The first proposal was that the complete control of the postal arrangements in Mysore should be surrendered by the Durbar to the Imperial Postal Department, that that department was to take over the whole of the postal establishments existing in Mysore, pay them from imperial revenues and treat Mysore in all postal matters exactly as if it were a British Province, the service correspondence of the State being carried at the cheap official rates as in British India prepaid by service stamps. The proposal was regarded in some quarters as advantageous to Mysore as it would secure centralisation and uniformity of rules and organisation, remedy that public inconvenience which naturally resulted from Mysore being isolated from the rest of India in postal matters and would save the Maharaja's Government the trouble and cost of maintaining a local postal department which at best imitated the imperial system in a manner necessarily imperfect. It involved, it was further said, no interference, administrative or political, though the liability of the State in respect of mail robberies would increase as the British postal system expanded. The alternative proposal was:—

1. That Mysore was to adopt all British rules and rates of postage using British postage stamps over-printed

'Mysore' which were to be supplied to it for the mere cost of manufacture ;

2. That all paid inland correspondence, official or non-official, transferred from Mysore to British post offices or *vice versa* was to be delivered free, each post office keeping whatever it collected in stamps or on bearing letters ;
3. That Mysore was to introduce the Money-Order, Insurance, Value-payable Parcel, Postal-Note and other systems peculiar to British Indian post office retaining any fees it earned on account of them. This alternative proposal while securing complete reciprocity to the State in all postal matters was regarded as throwing great responsibility upon the State and also as involving it in additional expenditure for the improvement of the then existing establishment.

The whole subject was discussed at the meeting of the Representative Assembly in 1885. The representatives unanimously expressed their opinion that the department should be retained by the Durbar and worked even at a loss if it was unavoidable. The Government of Mysore thereupon intimated to the Director-General that the second alternative was agreeable to them, but a reply was received that that alternative proposal had led to some practical inconvenience in the States to which it had been applied and that it could not be introduced elsewhere until more experience was gained. After much correspondence, the Anche was at last amalgamated with the British postal system from the beginning of April 1889. The change was financially a gain to Mysore to the extent of  $\frac{1}{4}$  a lakh of rupees per annum. The Dewan when he next met the members of the Representative Assembly had, however, to adopt an apologetic tone in justifying this transfer. Surrounded on every side by British territory and its highly developed postal system, the isolation of the local post, said the Dewan, could not long continue without causing marked inconvenience to trade and without impeding general progress. With the railways and roads which were so rapidly opening out every part of the country and the growth of commercial relations with the other parts of India,

Mysore was expected to keep pace with the requirements of the times and requisitions had indeed been made from various quarters for the insurance of parcels, money orders, telegraph offices and other new wants such as were elsewhere met by the Postal Department. It was however apparent that such an elaborate system could not usefully be attempted by a purely local post, for the essential condition of success in every postal system was centralised control and absolute uniformity of rules and organisation. As there were some difficulties in improving the local Anche, His Highness' Government decided to amalgamate the local with the imperial post. This explanation of the Dewan to the Representative Assembly was felt as somewhat of a *volte-face* by the side of what had been said in the earlier year regarding the retention of the department in the hands of the Durbar and the introduction of all the conveniences found in the British postal system. Though the transfer has become an accomplished fact, the desire in the minds of the people for its retention has not even now been wholly extinguished, especially as its origin was associated with so distinguished a ruler of Mysore as Chikka Devaraja Wodeyar, the contemporary of Aurangzebe.

After the Rendition, various attempts had been made from time to time to improve the efficiency of the subordinate public service by prescribing the minimum general qualifications that were required for the various grades of appointments. Till 1892 no attention, however, had been paid to the upper service. In 1874, as we have seen, an attempt had been made to improve the tone of the public service by direct appointments to it of young men of education and good antecedents. The scheme however had not been systematically followed, and especially with the large reductions carried out consequent on the famine the appointments to the service became somewhat haphazard, with the result that it became increasingly difficult, it was said, to find men of requisite qualifications to fill vacancies in the higher ranks of the service. The new scheme prescribed the holding of a periodical competitive examination open to the whole of India and that those who passed in this examination were to be admitted as probationary Assistant Commissioners, an equal number being admitted by nominations

from among the members of old Mysore families and from among the distinguished officers of the subordinate service. Strong objection was taken at the time to placing the young men of Mysore under such odds as would be involved when they were required to undergo an examination in which they had to sit side by side with candidates drawn from, as was said, the Himalayas to Cape Comorin. The European officers who had served in Mysore had borne testimony to the equal capacity of the Mysorean with his brethren outside the State. A competitive examination confined as it generally was to persons of talent placed the Mysorean in point of numbers under a great disadvantage, especially a test by the number of marks scored involved an element of chance also according to the temperaments of the examiners. Vigorous protests against such a disability imposed on the Mysore graduates were made both in the Representative Assembly as well as outside. But the grievance was not remedied till after a number of years.

A measure brought into effect to help the employees in the public service was the introduction of a system of Life Insurance from 1st December 1891. This subject had engaged the consideration of the Government of India some years earlier, but it was abandoned on the ground of the difficulty of managing the business and the fear that the native community might not avail itself of its advantages as largely as was necessary. His Highness' Government, however, now made bold to extend this boon of insurance to its own servants over and above the existing privileges of pensions and gratuities. The system aimed at offering a ready and safe investment for the small savings of the official class and at securing for them and their families a certain and substantial provision in the future in return for small payments spread over a series of years which were not likely to be felt as burdensome. The Government made no profit out of the business. The measure was calculated not only to benefit the families of the public servants left in want but also to improve the general tone of the public service and to promote its independence and purity of character. The salient points of the scheme were that every person who entered the service



of Government after a particular date on a monthly pay of Rs. 10/- and upwards upto a limit of Rs. 500/- was to be required to insure his life with the Government for a bonus which was to be payable to him on his attaining the age of 55 or to his family in the event of his dying before that age in return for a premium of 10 per cent on the salary. The officials already in the service were also given the option of insuring their lives, if their age did not exceed 45 years. To avoid undue risk to Government, a limit of Rs. 50/- was prescribed as the maximum premium payable by all officials even when their salaries exceeded Rs. 500.

Another measure which engaged the attention of Government in the early period of Chamaraja Wodeyar's reign was the improvement of the status of village officers. Subsequently, however, it was found that no tangible improvement was possible. But the remarks made by the Dewan in 1883 in his speech to the Representative Assembly are of some interest, though the reasoning is not quite convincing. "The village establishments remain to be revised, not with the object of effecting any immediate reduction in the remuneration now paid to them but for the purpose of improving their status and of avoiding in the future a needless, heavy expenditure. The Survey and Settlement abolished the levy of *mirasi* by Shanbagues and Patels and fixed their remuneration on a liberal scale. It is not desirable to alter this scale, but the remuneration according to it must be paid not by cash payments from the treasury which are not valued but in the shape of service inam lands which confer upon their holders a position and status in the eyes of village communities and which for that reason are highly prized. Money remuneration has the effect of converting them into paid Government officials of the lowest rank and of affecting their traditional influence as heads of villages. Moreover, the amount which has to be paid from the treasury on this account is annually increasing. In 1878-79 it was Rs. 80,000. It has since gradually increased and is now about Rs. 2½ lakhs. Unless the whole system is altered as above indicated, it may amount to nearly 7 lakhs by the time the Revenue Settlement of the Province is complete. Under such circumstances, the conversion of the money payments into land

emoluments is a step which should not be longer delayed. If carried out with proper precaution, it ought not to entail any appreciable decrease in the land revenue, for assignments of land as service inams must necessarily include a fair proportion of arable, unoccupied land and will to a large extent be counterbalanced by increased cultivation....."

In the year 1889 the Dewan announced the forest policy of the Maharaja's Government which was to conserve all forest tracts and to husband their resources to aid natural reproduction by artificial means, to replace indiscriminate felling by systematic operations, to allow the agricultural classes facilities for grazing and for meeting their essential wants and to ensure an unfailing supply of sandalwood.

We have seen how the efficiency of the Silledar cavalry underwent considerable deterioration during the days of the British Commission. There was in the State excellent military material from which a very efficient force could readily be raised. In physique the Mysorean was far superior to the average man of the plains and he was specially noted for his endurance and hard work in distant countries and under the most trying conditions of climate and fatigue. The Bedar Infantry and the Mysore Cavalry so well known for their valour were all drawn from warlike classes who were indigenous to the country and who furnished excellent recruits for an army. The climate of Mysore placed the inhabitants in a better position than most other provinces for maintaining an excellent cavalry and the Amrit Mahal cattle of Mysore also provided an exceptional advantage in the matter of transport. The limitations under which the Durbar was placed in regard to military matters offered no effective means of readily devising measures to raise the efficiency of the Mysore troops. In 1883, however, a cavalry officer of the British Service was appointed as Staff Officer for the purpose of drilling the Silledars and bringing them up to a higher standard of efficiency. In 1885 the three regiments of Silledars stationed at Bangalore, Mysore and Shimoga with detachments at other district headquarters were all stationed

either at Bangalore or Mysore for greater convenience of management, furnishing detachments where required. About this period a change in the military policy of the Imperial Government towards the Indian States became markedly visible. The policy of isolation and mistrust pursued in the earlier period of British rule towards Indian Princes gradually gave place to one of union and friendship with them. As an illustration of the policy of the earlier period, it may be stated that in 1788 when the Raja of Travancore applied to the Governor of Madras to lend as a matter of favour and friendship four officers and twelve sergeants well acquainted with the exercise and discipline of troops for employment in his State, the Governor replied that it was contrary to the system of the Company to lend their officers to command any troops except such as were actually in their own pay and under their authority. In 1885 when war seemed imminent with Russia on the other side of the north-west frontier of India, the Indian Princes in a body approached the Viceroy with offers of the whole resources of their States to supplement those of the Supreme Government. Again, in 1887 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne, many rulers of Indian States offered to contribute in a very liberal way to the defence of the empire. But the Government of India did not think it necessary or in all respects desirable to accept from the Native States the pecuniary assistance which they so freely tendered. In 1888 Lord Dufferin the Viceroy in a speech at Patiala in November of that year suggested that the Princes who had specially good fighting material in their armies might raise a portion of their armies to such a pitch of general efficiency as would make them fit to go into action side by side with the Imperial troops.

Chamaraja Wodeyar influenced by the traditions of his family was one of the first to accept this suggestion by offering to reorganise and improve the military forces of Mysore and to place them at the disposal of the Imperial Government for active service with the regular armies of the empire. Other Princes also, especially those of Hyderabad, Kashmir, Patiala, Indore and Bikanir, had made similar offers and all these were received by the Supreme Government in the spirit in which they were made. In

his speech to the Representative Assembly in 1889 the Dewan was able to announce that Major Mellis who had been deputed by the Government of India to reorganise and improve the existing armies of various States had already completed his work in Kashmir, the Punjab and the Rajputana States and was expected to visit Mysore in connection with his important mission. Major Mellis commenced his work in Mysore in 1890 and completed it in the following year. The two regiments of Silledars were broken up into two corps, one for imperial and the other for local service. In order to permit of the former being brigaded with the troops of the British Government and kept in a constant state of efficiency for active service, it was stationed at Bangalore. It was armed with breech loading carbines, provided with camp equipage and a standing Pony Transport so as to be ready for immediate active service whenever called upon for the purpose, and in matters of pay, discipline and equipment it was made similar to the native cavalry in the British Service. This new plan, as stated by Sir William Lee-Warner, secured in comparison with the former establishments of Native States both efficiency and economy—efficiency, because the officers lent to the States ensured the uniformity and harmony of organisation and equipment required by the general system of Imperial defence and economy, because larger bodies of inefficient levies were disbanded.

In 1887 the subject of reconstituting the State Council came up before the Maharaja, as the Dewan felt the necessity of having as one of the councillors an officer with revenue experience who could be deputed for the inspection of the ordinary revenue work in the districts. Nothing however was done till Krishna Rao died in 1888, when Colonel Grant, Superintendent of the Revenue Survey, was proposed to be appointed as a member of the Council. The Government of India, however, considered it inadvisable that a European officer should be a member of His Highness' Council and the proposal fell through. In April 1889 Sabhapathi Mudaliar was allowed to retire and P. Chentsal Rao, a retired member of the Madras Service, was appointed a member of the Council. In May of the same year an addition was made to the Council subjects by prescribing that all matters coming before His

Highness' Government either in appeal or in revision under Section 217 of the Mysore Land Revenue Code were to be heard and decided by a committee consisting of not less than two members of the Council, except in certain specified cases. In July 1891 Chentsal Rao was placed in charge of the Land Revenue Department in addition to the charge of Local Fund and Municipal Departments.

## **CHAPTER XIV.**

**Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.**

### **Famine Policy:—Railways.**

There have been droughts and famines in India from the remotest times arising out of the climatic conditions of the country and references to deficiency of rains, failure of crops and consequent distresses caused to the people exist both in the Sanskrit and vernacular literatures of India. There are also references to various kinds of measures put in operation to carry relief to the suffering people. There were however, it must be admitted, no systematised attempts to mitigate the horrors arising out of these visitations. Irrigation as testified by the numerous tanks and river canals found all over the country was one means of combating this failure of rain. But on account of want of facilities of communication it was not possible to carry food easily and rapidly from where it was in plenty to parts where its lack was sorely felt.

In 1769-70 there was a terrible famine in Bengal and the records of the period showed that about a third of the population perished from starvation. Even under the British rule for a long number of years the principles and methods of famine relief were unsettled. It was in connection with the Orissa famine of 1886 that a policy of famine relief was for the first time inaugurated. After the great famine of 1876-78, a Commission was appointed by Lord Lytton to enquire into the whole subject of famines in India and to advise the Government on the measures to be taken for their prevention and relief. Their report for the first time reduced to system the administration of famine relief. The labours of this Commission resulted in formulating general principles for the proper treatment of famines and in suggesting particular measures of a preventive or protective character. In Mysore at the time of the famine of 1876-78 the means of communication in the shape of roads had been admirably developed during the regime of the British Commission, but there was no easy and rapid transport

except carts drawn by bullocks to carry the food to the stricken parts. As a consequence, in spite of the large sums spent to provide food for the distressed people and in spite of the strenuous efforts made by the officers of the British Commission to mitigate the distress caused, the loss of life and property was appalling. Prudence now directed that the Government of Mysore should always be prepared to meet contingencies of deficiency or failure of rainfall causing scarcity, if not famine.

In 1885 the rains held off for a time in some parts of the State and there was fear of a drought occurring. In October of the same year in his speech to the Representative Assembly the Dewan while accepting the British Indian mode of famine relief, indicated a few lines of departure from it. The system of relief, said the Dewan, was almost to be the same as that which was prescribed for all the British Provinces. There was, however, one point connected with the administration of relief upon the importance of which His Highness' Government laid special stress. In their opinion, it was essential that a scheme of relief in order to be efficient should begin with works in the vicinity of villages inhabited by the agricultural population. The main object of the relief was to be the prevention of the dispersion of families in quest of distant works. Near every inhabited village it was therefore considered advisable to provide suitable work such as the improvement of tanks, the digging of wells and the formation of village roads, the improvement of existing local sanitary arrangements, construction of Saguvalikattes and other similar works. The employment of the people on such works, it was believed, would enable them to return to their homes at the end of each day's work and thus it would be possible to preserve the mutually helpful bonds of village society. The early commencement of such works was to be regarded as of paramount importance. Experience showed, according to the Dewan, that in the earlier stages of distress the ryots preferred to cling to their homes upon unwholesome or insufficient food rather than seek employment on distant works. It was only when even such food failed and emaciation set in that they left their homes in quest of work or food and entered upon that career of aimless wandering which was so fruitful a source of suffering in the famine of 1876-77,

A programme was accordingly arranged for some of the most affected parts of Tumkur and Chitaldrug on the principle of leaving no inhabited village without suitable work within a radius of 3 miles. At the same time, to meet the contingency of a drought deepening into a famine of some intensity involving landless classes on a large scale arrangements were also made for undertaking when required a system of works under the professional control of the Public Works Department and intended chiefly for persons who generally resorted to such works for employment. The scheme of relief under the management of the Department of Public Works comprised the restoration or repair of a large number of tanks and the formation of a few useful new roads and the improvement of existing ones, the works being so situated that the labouring and even the agricultural classes could reach them without losing touch of their village homes. It was at the same time realised that when a desolating famine like that of 1876-78 occurred, resort must necessarily be had to the larger projects of railways and irrigation.

Again in 1891-92 a severe drought occurred which affected the whole State except the Malnad taluks. In the Maidan parts of the Mysore and Hassan districts the south-west monsoon was so scanty and precarious that the early dry crops were completely lost except in a few scattered places. The northern and eastern districts did not get any of the early rains and had in consequence to defer the preparation of land for cultivation much beyond the usual season. A few showers which came later permitted the sowing of nearly the usual extent of land with the ordinary crops in most taluks. These soon began to fade from insufficient moisture. The rain which fell towards the end of September raised hopes of a favourable change in the season. But by November it was evident that the north-east monsoon also was disappointing and that the general outturn of dry crops would not be much above a four anna average in most taluks. The tanks received no water and wet cultivation under them could not be attempted. The failure of fodder was widespread and altogether there was every indication of an impending distress of a very aggravated type and towards the end of November the price of food grains began to rise



rapidly owing to the local failure of crops as well as large exports to the neighbouring Madras districts.

In these circumstances the chief aim of Government, said the the Dewan to the Representative Assembly in October 1892, was to put into operation the policy sketched in 1885 and to provide work to the affected people as far as possible near their own homes. Accordingly, minor tanks conveniently situated were first selected whether yielding any revenue or not. To meet the rare cases where minor tanks were not available as also to provide work near villages after completion of the tanks taken up, a programme of work of a supplementary character was kept ready. These works were also of special local utility being such as those relating to village sanitation, planting of topes in villages and round the fringe of the waterspread of the bigger tanks. The execution of these works was entrusted to the hereditary village patels as it was deemed safer to rely upon the autonomy of the village than upon any paid agency from outside. A system of periodical inspection and general control by the local revenue authorities was established and wide discretion given to district officers as regards the details of execution with due regard to local circumstances. Later, Government bore testimony to the fact that the entire official agency from the patels to the district officers had shown itself fully equal to the high responsibility placed upon it and to the scheme of relief planned being carried out with complete success in every affected part.

Besides placing the means of earning wages within the ready reach of the general population, several other measures were also adopted for the relief of special classes. The most important and the largest among these classes was the class of weavers, the demand for whose articles had been very much reduced owing to the high prices of food grains that prevailed. After much consideration of alternative measures, the Government eventually adopted a system of purchase, according to which advances of money were made to local merchants of standing for purchasing on behalf of Government the entire produce of the looms at the market-value to be re-sold when the demand became re-established. The merchants

were paid a small commission and in return they guaranteed the full recoupment of the advances made. The scheme was in operation in a number of weaving centres and afforded relief to considerable bodies of weavers who generally were the first to suffer on every occasion of widespread scarcity and high prices. In the Bangalore City the relief given extended to so many as 4000 looms and 10,000 weavers.

The Maharaja's Government were not content with merely starting famine relief works when actually the need for them arose. It was regarded that the opening out of the State by means of railways was a necessary preliminary not only to meet droughts and famines but also for the development of the material resources of the State. The first line of railway from Bangalore to Mysore was, as has been already stated, commenced by the British Commission and was opened for through traffic in February 1882 and proved to be a great boon to the country even from the beginning. The railway line from Bangalore to Tumkur constructed from funds obtained by the railway loan of Rs. 20 lakhs was opened for through traffic on the 11th August 1884. Further, this line was carried as far as Gubbi, an important centre of trade at a distance of 11 miles from Tumkur, by using surplus stores and by a cash outlay of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  lakhs of rupees from the current revenues. The whole system of railway from Mysore to Gubbi was 141 miles in length. The survey of the line from Gubbi to Tiptur had already been finished. At this stage the Durbar agreed in 1885 to the proposal made by the Government of India for the construction of the line from Gubbi to Harihar by means of foreign capital.

The Secretary of State on behalf of Mysore negotiated, as we have seen, a loan of £ 1,200,000 at 4 per cent per annum with the Southern Mahratta Railway Company. The proceeds of the loan raised by the Company amounted to £ 1,224,000 including a premium of 2 per cent and was equivalent in Indian currency to Rs. 1,63,82,801. Out of this amount, the Durbar reimbursed itself the amount spent on the railway constructed by it, viz., Rs. 68,60,508 and out of the remaining amount the cost of the

construction of the line from Tiptur to Harihar by the Southern Mahratta Railway Company was defrayed.

It was agreed that the entire railway from Mysore to Harihar was to be worked by the Company from 1st July 1886 as a separate system distinct from their railways in British India and the cost of management was to be apportioned between the two systems in the proportion of their respective gross earnings. Out of the net earnings of the Mysore system the Company were to retain for themselves a quarter-share, the remaining three-quarters being handed over to the Mysore State. The loan raised by the Company was not redeemable before 1st March 1936 but was redeemable after that date upon a year's previous notice being given. The contract with the Company regarding the management of the line was to be in force for a period of 46 years from the 30th June 1886 to 30th June 1932. The railway from Gubbi to Harihar was completed by the Company in 1889 and on the 5th August of the same year the lines from Mysore to Tiptur and from Harihar to Tiptur were finally linked together and the through line declared open by Chamaraja Wodeyar.

The ambition of the Durbar grew with this success to secure to the State a system of railway communications as complete and perfect as was possible. In his address to the Representative Assembly in 1891 the Dewan assured the members that if the financial conditions continued to improve as they had done in the past, there would be no pause in the construction of more railways which had been already mapped out and the State would thereby become intersected by lines which in the decade preceding the Rendition were only thought of as remote possibilities. The railways completed during the reign of Chamaraja Wodeyar besides the Bangalore-Harihar line were the extension from Mysore to Nanjangud  $15\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, the line from Bangalore to Hindupur  $51\frac{1}{2}$  miles and the Kolar Gold Field railway  $10\frac{1}{2}$  miles. This last line was entrusted to the Madras Railway Company and the remaining ones to the Southern Mahratta Railway Company for management for fixed periods. The results of the survey to

carry the line from Nanjangud to Gudaloor were found discouraging and the Governments of Madras and Mysore concurred that this project should give way to that proposed to connect Nanjangud with Erode. The line from Bangalore to Guntakal was expected to advance the commercial prosperity of Mysore by connecting it with Bellary, Secunderabad and other important places to the north-east and to give a special impetus to the traffic in cotton and grain. The Kolar Gold Field Railway was expected to give an impetus to the Gold Mining industry.

## **CHAPTER XV.**

### **Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.**

#### **Irrigation.**

As regards extension and improvement of irrigation, it was found in the early years of Chamaraja Wodeyar's rule that the irrigable area was only 15 per cent of the area under cultivation. Of this small area the greater portion was dependent upon tank irrigation. These tanks were fed by rain which at times failed when most needed. The Government was also under no illusion as regards the damage done to irrigation by allowing tanks in the State generally to deteriorate.

So far back as 1866 Bowring who was then Commissioner of Mysore had found that the ryots had silently ignored their obligation and that the whole duty and cost of repairing the tanks both in regard to the requisite labour and material had fallen on the Government. At the same time he had also realised that it was manifestly impossible for Government to undertake the petty annual repairs of this large number of tanks scattered in all parts of the State. The ryots' liability was re-emphasised in 1873 by the Chief Commissioner of those days. Owing, however, to the decline of communal spirit, the absenteeism of the land-lords and the absence of any penalty for non-performance, it was found in the early years of the Maharaja's rule that nothing substantial had been achieved. There existed 38,000 tanks, both large and small, and it was found that these required regular attention both towards their restoration as well as towards their maintenance.

In 1884 the Dewan said at the Representative Assembly meeting of that year that they could not conceal from themselves the fact that a large number of the tanks were in complete ruin, that the failure of the system of tank management was due to the non-recognition of the important fact that the ryot was jointly interested with the Government for the upkeep of the tanks and that when Government found that with its costly agency it could not undertake with any prospect of profit the full management of

these tanks it became necessary to call upon the ryots to once more come forward with their co-operation. It was true that the ryots had to a large extent lost all traditions of combination for works of public utility, nor were the civil officers in a position to enforce the ryots' liabilities in an efficient manner. The various inams and privileges attached to the upkeep by ryots had been withdrawn and cesses had been imposed on the understanding that the work was to be done by Government. Thus by emphasising at different times the responsibility of the one or the other of the two bodies interested in the tanks and by neglecting the interests of the other the tanks on the preservation of which so much depended had been allowed to deteriorate. The Dewan concluded this portion of his address with these words which are as true now as they were then : " Any reform in our tank system must start with a clear recognition of the fact that it was beyond the ability of any Government to undertake the repair and maintenance of all the tanks in the State with any ultimate benefit to its revenues, nor would it be equitable to throw the burden on the ryots after the village system or what little remained of it had been disorganised and after the ryot had tacitly been relieved of his responsibilities by the imposition of special cesses for the repair of tanks."

In these circumstances it became necessary for the Maharaja's Government to evolve a new policy. To start with, it was considered necessary to draw a distinction between tanks which Government was to reserve for its direct management through the Public Works Department and tanks that could be left to the ryots under the supervision of the Revenue Department. It was true that from long disuse there was not the same skill available in villagers for the purpose intended as in the earlier days, but it was considered that under the sympathetic guidance of the Revenue and the Public Works Departments the old spirit could be revived and that thereby the ryots would rise to the occasion and utilise to their advantage the opportunities created. Accordingly the proposal now took the shape of reserving all tanks yielding more than Rs. 500 revenue under the direct control of the Public Works Department, the number of such tanks being 790. From the large revenue these tanks yielded, from the heaviness of

the cost of their repair, and from the risk involved in their breach, it was regarded as advisable that they should be managed by the skilled agency under Government. Tanks yielding less than Rs. 500 were proposed to be handed over to the management of the villagers concerned subject to the responsible control of the revenue officer but without any hard and fast rules irksome to the ryots. This system, it was hoped, would be sufficiently elastic to admit of its easy application to the varying conditions of the Maidan and the Malnad or of places where capital and intelligence were forthcoming and places where ryots were too poor and ignorant to do anything without State-aid.

In return for the responsibility to be transferred to the ryot it was proposed to relieve him of the payment of the irrigation cess of one anna per rupee of assessment. In the case of works other than maintenance whole or partial remissions of wet kandayam for one or more years were also to be granted according to circumstances in order to enable the ryots immediately to carry them out. If motives of self-interest failed to have the desired effect, the next step was to throw open the tanks to private capital and enterprise under the 'Chouthayi' system or remission of one-fourth of the land assessment. In the case of tanks requiring an exceptionally heavy outlay for their repair or restoration concessions even more liberal were to be granted. Under the existing system when a tank breached it was many years before it was repaired and in partial relief half the wet assessment was remitted. The ryots paid half assessment for some years and when the prospect of the tank being repaired became more and more remote, they often resigned their holdings to the loss of the entire assessment to the Government. When these proposals were discussed in the Representative Assembly in October 1884 they were found to be beset with many difficulties and there were also differences of opinion on the subject as to the limit to be fixed in regard to the relative responsibilities of the Public Works Department and the ryots. The settlement of the question one way or the other was however imperative and the Government were in favour of testing the scheme by introducing it tentatively in seven selected taluks.

As regards the general irrigation policy of the Government, the Dewan explained in 1886 that it was to be a settled policy of the Government to assign for the general improvement of irrigation as large an allotment as was compatible with other demands on the finances of the State. The Durbar was conscious, said the Dewan, that a great deal remained to be done either in the shape of general improvements or the reconstruction of ruined or abandoned tanks likely to be remunerative or the restoration and where practicable the extension of channels drawn from the Kaveri and other rivers. Though the magnitude of these works in the aggregate was very large, still the Government accepted it as a settled principle that their annual operations on them were to be limited only by the extent of the resources at their disposal for the time being. In the case of the tank maintenance scheme already described the Rs. 500 limit was lowered to one of Rs. 300 and put into operation in eight selected taluks, one in each district instead of only seven. A new Public Works Division was formed and to it was entrusted all improvements of irrigation and the restoration and extension of channels drawn from the rivers Kaveri, Hemavathi, Kapini and Lakshmanathirtha.

After the minor tank restoration scheme entrusted to the ryots was in operation for some time, the Dewan in his speech to the Representative Assembly of 1887 gave a hopeful indication of the success of the scheme. The scheme, he said, was an earnest effort to revive a custom which though formerly well recognised had unfortunately been allowed to fall into disuse in later times. On the whole, a fair measure of success having been achieved the scheme continued to be extended to other taluks. The Dewan in concluding his speech relating to this part of the subject again emphasised on the obligation that rested on the ryots in these earnest words: "I need scarcely remind you, gentlemen, that the principle that the villagers must do the earthwork required for the proper maintenance of their tanks and appeal to the Government only when stonework or masonry work is required is an ancient custom of the land as old as the tanks themselves. Successive Chief Commissioners took advantage of every opportunity to impress this principle upon the executive officers of the Government,



When the irrigation cess was imposed, the Government restricted the appropriation of the funds thereby raised to the repair and improvement of tanks as distinguished from mere 'maintenance' which was expressly declared to continue as an obligation on the part of the ryots. So lately as October 1873 the Chief Commissioner in the Public Works Department laid down elaborate rules for the enforcement of this obligation. The practical enforcement, however, of the ryots' obligation as regards the tanks whether brought up to standard by the Public Works Department or not varied very much with each district officer's appreciation of the importance of this part of his duty. To add to this unsatisfactory condition of things the famine intervened and completely disorganised the administrative machinery, and the different opinions from time to time expressed as to the future tank policy of the Government contributed not a little to unsettle people's minds. Under such circumstances His Highness the Maharaja's Government deem it of paramount importance to declare and enforce a definite policy on the question and hence the scheme now promulgated which aims at the re-establishment of a formerly fully recognised custom—a scheme moreover which is essential for the well being of the State, for it is possible in no other way to cope with the work of maintaining in perfect safety the enormous number of tanks, large and small, scattered all over the State. When once this end is attained,—and it is possible to attain it only by the ryot making good the deficiencies due to his past neglect—the annual work required of him for proper future maintenance will indeed be very slight and the Government will always undertake all work of improvement, all stone and masonry work and also repair all damages done by breaches and other inevitable accidents beyond the power of the ryot to avert."

The Government also by this time had become fully aware that the improvement and extension of the river channels in Mysore and Hassan districts were of equal importance with that of the upkeep of tanks. Accordingly the enlargement and extension of the Jodi Rampur channel was taken in hand as well as the extension of the Ramasamudra channel to a distance of 10 miles beyond its former limit. The Rajaparameswari channel was also

improved. It was calculated that on the full completion of the extension of these channels an additional area of nearly 30,000 acres could be brought under wet cultivation in about five years. A forecast programme for the next five years was prepared in 1889 including all projects costing over Rs. 20,000. In this programme were included the great Marikanave dam, a project for the construction of a new anecut across the Kaveri to be called after the name of Chamaraja Wodeyar and the permanent improvement of the old Chikkadevarajasagar, Virjanadi and Devaraya systems. The Dewan invited the representatives to make any suggestions on the programme by way either of alterations or additions from their intimate knowledge of local wants and local interests and several of the suggestions so made were accepted.

In 1890 it was found that several works included in the irrigation programme would be materially affected by the rights claimed by the Madras people to the drainages of Mysore hitherto passed unchecked or but partially checked across the Mysore boundaries and it became therefore necessary to place some reasonable limit to the extent of the claims put forward by the Madras ryots. As this was a general question and had a most important bearing on the future irrigation policy of the State, a representation was made to the Government of India for a fair adjudication.

In 1891 His Highness' Government became impressed with the need of giving encouragement to irrigation from wells which for protective value in times of drought and local prosperity in ordinary times were considered far superior to ordinary works of tank irrigation. In the famine of 1876-1877 the only oases amidst the general desolate appearance of the country were besides the tracts watered by the river channels those special regions favoured with well irrigation. The disappearance of surface springs in localities where they formerly existed and a general lowering of the spring level which had taken place in the northern and north-eastern taluks of the State indicated the need for exceptional activity in the construction of new irrigation works on a large scale. Want of capital and almost the usurious interest at which

alone money could be had in the market had been the cause of the ryot's inability to provide himself with irrigation wells even when all other conditions were favourable. The Durbar, therefore, now resolved to make advances for the sinking of wells at a nominal rate of interest repayable in easy instalments in a long number of years and the procedure under which such advances were obtainable was made exceedingly simple. No further security was demanded from the ryot than the well and the land it irrigated and exemption from enhanced assessment was also guaranteed to the holders of lands and the risk of any failure in finding water was undertaken by Government. A special officer was appointed to give the advances on the spot without the delay of circuitous correspondence through the usual official channel. The ryots were somewhat mistrustful of this scheme in the beginning but subsequently they evinced an eager desire to avail themselves of its benefits and in the districts of Kolar, Tumkur, Chitaldrug and Bangalore loans were taken within a short time for 917 kapile and 530 yatam wells calculated to irrigate 5252 acres.

Another important class of works for which Government loans were given was the construction and repair of Saguvalikattes or small reservoirs for impounding water generally. The restriction placed upon the construction and improvement of these kattes by an order of 1873 had been felt as a great hardship, especially in the Chitaldrug district where much of the dry cultivation depended upon the retention of moisture under these kattes. That order was accordingly withdrawn and special encouragement was afforded for the construction and improvement of these most useful private works by a system of Government loans.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.

**Growing prosperity of the country—First Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition in 1888—Special encouragement given to arecanut gardens—Agricultural Banks—Encouragement to Industries—Gold Mining—Trade and development of communications—Census of 1891.**

During the reign of Chamaraja Wodeyar there was owing to a variety of causes an increase in the agricultural prosperity of the country. Generally the seasons were favourable for agricultural operations and there was also an increase in the growth of population creating larger and larger demands for agricultural products. The census taken in 1891 showed an increase of nearly 10 lakhs of people as compared with the number in 1881. The opening up of the country by means of railways and roads and the extension of irrigation had also their due share of influence in producing this agricultural prosperity. Taking Raiyatwari lands alone, inams or rent-free lands being inconsiderable in extent in Mysore and not subject to any appreciable variation, the occupied area increased from 40,90,402 acres in 1881 bearing a land revenue assessment of Rs. 63,51,000 to 61,73,826 acres in 1894 bearing an assessment of Rs. 84,47,525. Out of the increase, nearly a third was due to the introduction of the Revenue Survey and Settlement into 31 taluks, while the remaining two-thirds was wholly due to the extension of cultivation. Taking the two together, the total increase in the occupied area was 51 per cent, while that in the assessment was 33 per cent. It is evident, therefore, that the individual ryot held more land in 1894 in which year Chamaraja Wodeyar died and paid proportionately less for it than in 1881, the average assessment per head showing a decline from Re. 1-8-10 to Re. 1-5-11.

Prior to 1886 the office of the Director of Agriculture was held along with the offices of the Inspector-General of Police and of Forests and Plantations. In that year a separate Director of

Agriculture and Statistics was appointed and he was also entrusted with the duties of collection of statistics relating to rainfall, cultivation, breeding of stock, promotion of experiments in agriculture, trade and manufacture. In October 1888 during the Dasara festivities an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition was held for the first time in Mysore and was opened by the Maharaja on the 16th of the same month.

The aims of an Exhibition were stated by L. Ricketts the President of the Exhibition Committee to be to gauge the resources of the country, to stimulate agricultural and industrial pursuits by disseminating useful information, to create a healthy emulation and secure excellence in the quality of products and to enhance their value by increasing the demand for them. The educational importance of the Exhibition consisted, according to the President, in forming as it were a vast sample room where the best specimens of agricultural produce and a varied collection of arts and manufacture could be seen together. The Exhibition was held in the Gordon Park at Mysore, a prominent site having been selected midway between the New Public Offices and the Oriental Library. The exhibits were classified under the following heads :—

SECTION A. Horses and Ponies, Cattle, Sheep and Goats.

SECTION B. Field Produce, Garden, Plantation and Jungle Produce, Fibres, Spices and Condiments, Sugars, Dyes and colours, Miscellaneous Vegetables and fruits.

SECTION C. Machines, Implements and Tools.

SECTION D. Ploughing competition.

SECTION E. Fine Arts.

SECTION F. Industrial Arts: Hardware and ~~Wrought Iron~~, ~~Enamels~~, Earthenware, Glassware, Furniture, Basketware, Textile Manufactures, Leather, Stationery

SECTION G. Foliage Plants.

The Exhibition gave an opportunity to the members of the Representative Assembly as well as to the visitors in general for comparing the agricultural capabilities of their respective taluks with those of other places, for informing themselves of the success that had been attained in various parts of the country in improving the breed of cattle and for obtaining some practical idea of the extent to which manual labour could be saved by the employment of suitable machinery for lifting water for irrigation purposes as well as for other operations connected with agriculture. In 1890 the Dewan announced that an increased number of agricultural scholarships was to be given to the Mysore students proceeding to the Madras Agricultural College for study on condition of their carrying on agriculture on their own lands and farms after completing their course of instruction. It was thereby the hope of Government to create agricultural centres on improved principles in different parts and by that means to bring about a gradual and steady permeation through the community of information respecting improved methods of agriculture and other industries connected with it.

The Supari or betel-nut garden owners of the Malnad were given special encouragement for the preservation of existing gardens as well as for the opening of new ones. The representative members from the Shimoga district had on several occasions placed before Government the hardships caused to the garden owners by the double levy of a heavy land assessment as well as a Sayer duty on the produce. In regard especially to the supari growers of Sagar and Nagar it was evident that they suffered not only from a comparatively high land assessment in addition to a Sayer duty on the produce but also from difficulty of procuring labour, from want of suitable markets within easy reach, and from a peculiar kind of rot known as *Koleroga* which affected the betel trees, for all of which remedial measures were necessary. In 1887 a set of Shraya rules was issued as a partial solution for the difficult problem of of garden assessment in the Malnad. Bearing in mind the importance of maintaining uniformity in the system of assessment, the Durbar arrived at the conclusion that it was necessary to retain in the hands of Government a special garden rate which had the

sanction of the usage of the country. As a first step the Shraya rules introduced gave formal effect to a system which had fallen into disuse on the introduction of the Revenue Survey. The rules issued offered liberal encouragement for the formation of new gardens by allowing in the Malnad a nominal assessment of 4 annas per annum for 12 years and for a progressive assessment during the next three years. In the case of all arecanut gardens situated elsewhere and all cocoanut gardens wherever situated the assessment was fixed at 4 annas per acre for the first 9 years, followed by a progressive assessment during the next three years. In 1891 Government made a concession to the ryots of the Malnad taluks by granting to them full rights in their *Soppinbettas* to such garden owners as had defined tracts to their gardens. Where no such allotment existed, a survey party was deputed for allotting such *Soppinbettas* to each survey number of the garden. The garden owners were free to cut in the Bettas assigned to them all kinds of trees except sandal and teak.

In 1894 a scheme of Agricultural Banks which was expected to yield very beneficent results was introduced and the Dewan's speech to the Representative Assembly of that year expounding the hopes and intentions of His Highness' Government is worth reproducing in full:—"Before concluding, I wish to make a few observations regarding the establishment of Agricultural Banks in this country which on more than one previous occasion was pressed on the attention of Government. The subject has now received that careful study and investigation which its vital importance demands and I am able to place in your hands the Kanada draft of a scheme whereunder banks for the special benefit of agriculturists can most readily be established in this country. The details of the scheme are set forth in full in the draft before you but I may in this place add a few remarks in explanation of its more salient features.

"On the one hand, we have large accumulations of unused capital in the country as evidenced by the balances in the Presidency and other Exchange Banks, the refusal of the former to receive any private deposits except as current ones carrying no interest and the

high premium which the Government of India  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent securities command. On the other hand, we have the agriculturist suffering from inability to raise the funds required for his *bona fide* purposes except at ruinous rates of interest. In our own State the balance of the Government Savings Banks deposits has risen from 4 lakhs in 1881 to 28 lakhs during the last year though the rate of interest was recently reduced to  $3\frac{1}{4}$  per cent, but the borrowing power of our ryot is as low as ever. The substantial agriculturist, especially the coffee planter and the grower of exportable produce, is able to obtain some credit from the foreign buyer on the security of his crops at 9 and 12 per cent interest. But the ordinary ryot is unable to get any credit except at usurious rates. To bridge over the wide gulf that thus separates capital from want is one of the most important problems of the day in this country and it is not without considerable diffidence that His Highness' Government approach its solution. But we derive the hope of eventual success from what has already been accomplished in some European countries where conditions very similar to ours have existed. These countries have tried various experiments for the reorganisation of land credit by interposing an intermediate body such as the Land Credit Banks of the continent between the capitalist and the agricultural borrower. These experiments have been attended with varying degrees of success according to the degree of identification attained of the interests of the intermediate body with those of the borrower. But the most successful system has proved to be that in which the agriculturists forming themselves into an association on strictly co-operative principles substituted their own credit for that of the intermediate body, thus securing for themselves the fullest return for their own credit as agriculturists and doing away with the profits of the middlemen.

"The existing conditions among us offer no insuperable obstacle in the way of the establishment and successful working of similar associations in this country under the designation of Agricultural Banks. Indeed, speaking of our State, the tracts in which the Suttige and crop-advance systems exist afford highly favourable conditions for their establishment."



The essential principles underlying the constitution of these banks were :—

1. Every bank was to be an association of landholders formed on strictly co-operative principles and enlisted on the basis of mutual confidence arising from the mutual information of one another's character and resources, the object being the common benefit of cheap credit and not the earning of divisible profits.
2. The bank was to have no share capital, the funds required for the bank being obtained by means of loans raised or deposits received.
3. The members were to contribute their liability only.
4. The funds raised by the bank were to be lent only to its members at such moderate rates of interest as would leave the bank a small margin for the actual expenses of management and for the formation of a Reserve Fund.
5. The affairs of the bank were to be managed by a body elected from among the members themselves and giving their services gratuitously.
6. No loan was to be made except for an approved purpose such as some agricultural operation which with ordinary care could be expected to repay the loan and to leave some profit to the borrower.

While the credit of the bank was in the process of growth, the Government were prepared, assured the Dewan, to help the bank with deposits of money at favourable rates of interest. Further, exemptions were also to be granted from stamp and other duties to provide for the special registration of loans and their ready recovery, for the custody of funds in public treasuries and for the periodical audit of accounts. The co-operative spirit on which the association was based was, of course, to come from the people themselves. "I have no doubt," concluded Sir K. Seshadri Iyer, "such a spirit is to be found in most parts of the State, at least to

the extent of enabling us to make a small beginning. Small beginnings and early struggles are the necessary conditions of vigorous life and I indulge in the hope that the scheme if carefully worked on a moderate scale and in places where the conditions are most favourable will soon be the means of establishing a system of agricultural banks throughout the country. They will be a great education to the people in thrift and co-operation and they will be the means of creating a wholesome public opinion against unproductive expenditure and extravagance of all kinds."

The importance of industrial development was equally realised by the Maharaja's Government. In 1881 Rangacharlu in his address to the Representative Assembly in explaining the fall in land revenue drew pointed attention to the loss of a million of the population of the country and the consequent reduction in demand for food grains leading to a fall in their prices and deterring the ryots from bringing more lands under the plough, indicating thereby how much the success of agriculture was dependent on the flourishing condition of the manufacturing industries. The old idea, said Rangacharlu, that India must confine itself to the growth of agricultural produce was giving way to the more correct theory that no country could prosper unless its agricultural and manufacturing industries were equally fostered. In 1890 Sir K. Seshadri Iyer in explaining to the Representative Assembly certain concessions granted to a private capitalist for the establishment of a large scale iron industry in the Malavalli taluk, which however did not materialise, announced that it was to indigenous industries that they should look for the growth of capital and wealth in the country and real progress in other directions also. With the general poverty of the people on the one hand and their growing intelligence on the other, the great want of the people was doubtless the establishment of suitable industries on a scale calculated to afford a variety of remunerative occupations to large numbers and thus to obviate profitless competition within narrow spheres. Under such circumstances, the Dewan further said, it behoved the Government to do everything in their power not only to foster existing local industries but also to establish new ones wherever possible and recognising the principle that a far more powerful

agency in the matter than Government was the enterprise and intelligence of the people themselves, it was always the policy of Government to give every reasonable encouragement for the growth of new industries.

An outstanding industry that grew up during the reign of Chamaraja Wodeyar was that of Gold Mining. Mysore has now acquired a definite place among the gold producing countries of the world. The existence of old workings in the tract of country adjacent to Bowringpet in the Kolar District had long been known. But it was not till 1873 that any special attention was directed to them. In that year, one M. F. Lavelle, a resident of Bangalore who possessed some knowledge of Geology retired from the army and applied to the Government of Mysore for the exclusive privilege of mining in the Kolar District. His request was granted, one of the conditions being that a Royalty of 10 per cent was to be paid on all ores raised. Lavelle commenced operations by sinking a shaft in 1875 near Oorgaum. But finding that large capital was required for carrying out the work, he next year with the approval of the Government transferred all his rights and concessions to a military officer by name Beresford. This officer with some friends formed a syndicate known as the Kolar Concessionaires who took up the matter in earnest, at the same time obtaining a reduction in the rate of Royalty from 10 to 5 per cent. On these terms twenty square miles forming the Kolar Gold Fields were from time to time taken up by the Concessionaires and the Royalty and rent claimed by Government were further optionally allowed to be commuted by an immediate payment of Rs. 55,000 per square mile. By 1881 the Concessionaires secured the aid of Messrs. John Taylor & Sons, a firm of mining engineers in London. A general rush was now made for gold and rules for grant of mining-leases in other parts of the State were drawn up on similar terms. In 1886, finding that the Kolar Concessionaires were realising vast sums by sale of land containing gold, a fine of one-tenth of the consideration for every assignment of the lease was levied by Government.

The Government in 1886 also considered it necessary to have the country generally surveyed with reference to auriferous tracts

and Lavelle accordingly made a rough survey which was then gone over by Bruce Foote of the Geological Survey of India and duly mapped out. On information thus obtained, the existing rules were modified by providing for the grant of prospecting licences and making the grant of a lease conditional on a Company being formed within two years with paid-up working capital of £ 5000 per square mile and by reserving to Government the right to limit the total area to be leased for the time being and to dispose of mining leases for such areas by public competition. Under these conditions about ninety-seven square miles in all were leased out up to 1891, the land being situated in every district except Bangalore which was not within the auriferous zone.

In 1894 the Dewan stated in the Representative Assembly that under a system of prospecting licences and mining leases on favourable terms British capital and enterprise were attracted to the State and the mineral resources of the country had been so far developed that the anticipations of the past had been more than realised and the position of Mysore as a gold-producing country had become assured. The time therefore had arrived to organise and carry out a systematic survey of the State. At the end of 1894 a regular Geological Department was established under Bruce Foote whose services were borrowed from the British Government. The work of this department was to include a thorough investigation and record of the mineral resources of the country, the collection in a special museum of objects of geological and mining interest, maintenance of a laboratory for the purpose of making assays and analyses of minerals, and the training of young men for the work of the department in all its branches. Geology was also added to the curriculum of the Central College as an optional subject for the University Course.

It need scarcely be said that there was always much risk and uncertainty inherent in the mining industry and the success of even the Kolar Gold Mines was for a considerable time far from assured. In February 1881 one Captain B. D. Plummer, a miner of great experience, was appointed manager of the Nandidoorg Mine and he commenced operations there. These were continued till April

1883, when work was stopped for want of funds. Captain Plummer, however, from the crushings found that the prospects were encouraging and urged the shareholders to continue the work. But the shareholders had not the courage to venture more money. Meanwhile, another of the Companies the Mysore Mine had also come nearly to the end of its resources. A balance of only £ 13,000 remained and it was a question whether to divide this among the shareholders or to risk it on the mine. The strong advice of John Taylor prevailed and Captain Plummer was sent in December 1883 to do the best he could with the amount available. What actually occurred afterwards has now become a matter of history. The Champion Load was discovered by Captain Plummer and by 1885 the success of the Kolar Gold Fields became established. The £ 1 shares of the Mysore Mine which was as low as 10 pence were soon quoted £ 7-10-0 and it paid in 1886 a Royalty of Rs. 33,368 to Government. This was the first sum of Royalty received by the Mysore Government and in succeeding years it went on increasing till in 1894-95 it was Rs. 7,33,527. In 1894-95 there were 13 Companies at work representing a capital of £ 35,00,000 with a labour population including women and children, of 400 Europeans and 11,700 Indians. The annual payments on the spot in wages and otherwise exceeded 60 lakhs of rupees. In an area which was a few years ago a desolate waste sprung up a large and flourishing town humming with life and activity. A branch railway, as has been already stated, was opened in 1893 running from the Bowringpet junction of the Jalarpet-Bangalore line through most of the principal mining areas proving an immense convenience. In 1886-87 the total output of gold was 16,325 ounces valued at Rs. 8,88,606 and in 1894-95 the total production was 2,34,859 ounces valued at £ 8,44,271. The total quantity of gold produced during a period of about 10 years was 10,56,941 ounces valued at Rs. 2,34,39,352 plus £ 23,45,915. The total amount of Royalty received by the Mysore Government at 5 per cent on the gross income was Rs. 31,68,872. These figures showed the magnitude of the interests created. But although the country was naturally benefited greatly thereby, the principal transactions all took place in England where all the capital had been

raised and whither all the gold was conveyed. The dealings in shares took place on the London Stock Exchange and except some shares held by the Mysore Government very few shares were held by the people of the country. The Captains and other officials were English but the labour employed as far as Europeans were concerned consisted principally of Italian miners, and the native miners were at one time largely Moplahs from the Western Coast but in course of time others also were attracted by the liberal wages given.

Next turning to the textile trade, Bangalore became one of the most important distributing centres for this trade in Southern India. The first mill started in the Mysore State at Bangalore was in the year 1884 now known as the Mysore Spinning and Manufacturing Mills. The next mill started was in 1887 under the designation of the Bangalore Woollen, Cotton and Silk Mills. These Mills were started with local capital and large concessions were given by the Government in the shape of suitable sites and facilities for water supply. The Durbar also subscribed towards the share capital. These mills though now in a prosperous condition had a very chequered career in the earlier years and came to be largely financed with outside capital and the management also passed into the hands of outside agencies.

During the reign of Chamaraja Wodeyar considerable impetus was given to the trade of the country both by the extension of railways and by connecting them with those in British India as well as by the increase of the mileage of good roads. In the first ten years of this reign 471 miles of entirely new roads were opened out and 218 miles of roads which were incomplete at the time of the Rendition were fully completed. Some of these roads were reckoned as important railway feeders on which the development of the railway traffic mainly depended. The road from Avinhalli and that from Talguppa were designed and carried out via the Ninne Ghat to Gersoppa so as to afford a much needed outlet for the supari of the western Malnad. The construction of bridges over the Thunga at Hariharpur and the Bhadra at Balehonnur materially

removed the great obstacles that existed to the trade of Mysore with the Western Coast.

In February 1891 the usual decennial census was taken of the entire State on the system adopted in British India. The population of the whole State including that of C. & M. Station, Bangalore, was found to be nearly  $49\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs as compared with nearly 42 lakhs in 1881, the increase being nearly 18.08 per cent. To reach the figures of 1871 when the first census was taken and when the population was a little over  $50\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs, there still existed a gap of over one lakh which had to be made up.

## CHAPTER XVII.

### **Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.**

**Progress of education in general—Special encouragement to women's education—Oriental Library—Archæology—Encouragement to Kanada drama—Chamaraja Wodeyar's catholicity of mind.**

During the reign of Chamaraja Wodeyar both branches of education general and special received considerable encouragement. In 1881 the number of schools was only 866 and in 1894 the closing year of the Maharaja's reign, the number of schools increased to 1797 and the expenditure on them from Rs. 3,15,000 to Rs. 8,20,000. The increase in the number of boys was from 39,413 to 83,398 and in that of girls from 3000 to 12,000. Eight hundred primary vernacular schools, fifty English Middle Schools, five Industrial Schools, two Normal Schools, thirty Sanskrit schools, one first grade English College and three Oriental Colleges were newly established. Taking the census figures of 1891 it was found that in a period of 10 years from 1881 the total number of educated males among the population of the State had increased from 2,34,698 to 2,61,508 or 11.4 per cent and of educated females from 9082 to 17,885 or 96.3 per cent.

The financial exigencies of the early period of the Maharaja's rule necessitated the abolition of a separate departmental head for education and his designation of Director of Public Instruction was in 1883 changed to that of Education Secretary to the Dewan and with these duties were combined the duties of Police Secretary to the Dewan as well those of the Census Superintendent. In August 1884 Archæology was substituted for police duties and in April 1890 Education was separated from Archæology and was entrusted to Dr. H. J. Bhabha, a Parsi gentleman of ability who was principal of the Maharaja's College at the time.

On the occasion of the prize distribution on the 24th March 1882 to the students of the Maharaja's College at which Chamaraja



Wodeyar presided, Rangacharlu on behalf of His Highness' Government stated that the requirements of an advancing age did not permit of education being left to the chances of individual philanthropy as in former days but that it was necessary that Government should undertake the maintenance of public schools and colleges, care being however taken not to allow them to degenerate into a mere Government Department worked on mere routine and on considerations of monetary gain. Further, if educational institutions were to attain their highest success, emphasised Rangacharlu, they needed to be characterised by public spirit, purity of intentions and devoted attachment between masters and pupils which belonged to the older schools. No nation could thrive without a highly educated class at its head and the system of Government schools would never be complete without the colleges. So long as these colleges were attended by all classes of people and a well-devised system of scholarships placed them within the reach of the more gifted students of the poorer classes, it might fairly be accepted that it was the national and not individual interests that were served. Education was but a means to an end and a desire for it could only spring among the people by political ambition, or any religious movement, or great industrial changes. What was really required at the time, concluded Rangacharlu, was to stimulate a desire for education among the large agricultural classes. If this was accomplished, Government would no more be called upon to pay for their education than are required to feed them.

Till the year 1886 however, education did not receive much support from Government funds on account of various other urgent demands on its revenue. In that year Sir K. Seshadri Iyer was in a position to announce in the Representative Assembly the educational policy of Government for the future. It would be the aim of Government, he said, to maintain unimpaired and in thorough efficiency all the means of elementary and secondary education and to bring them within the reach of all classes both by direct agency and by assisting private efforts, to promote a scholarly study of the local vernacular and of the Sanskrit language, to elevate and extend female education and to conduct it on a system strictly national so as to enlist popular

sympathy in its progress and to encourage higher education and train young men for the professions of medicine and engineering.

The most notable advance during the period of Chamaraja Wodeyar's rule was that made in women's education. There existed in the days of the British Commission a few schools for girls managed by religious bodies. But these were not generally popular as they paid little regard to the religious beliefs and social habits of the people. As a consequence, the attendance in these schools was very limited and the girls attending mostly belonged to the lower strata of society. As far as the Mahomedan population was concerned, no girls belonging to that community attended any school. In the very first year of Chamaraja Wodeyar's accession to power this defect was recognised and a school at Mysore was started under the designation of the Maharani's Girls' School where caste prejudices were consulted and teachers drawn from respectable communities were appointed. This school later developed into the far-famed Maharani's College. At the end of the first year of the existence of the school, Rangacharlu presided at a prize distribution and his views on women's education are interesting. "I attach great importance," he said, "to getting up among our leading families numbers of young ladies with a high English education who could feel for the advancement of their sex and take up the same position in regard to them as that occupied by educated men in relation to their brethren. We cannot altogether trust in the legislation of men for the softer sex any more than in the legislation of one class for another. Such legislation is as much apt to err on the side of extravagance as on that of despotism, indulging in imaginary ideas of women's rights and other extravagant notions. The happy mean will be arrived at if we leave to women all that concerns themselves to be judged and determined by the standard of their feelings and ideas on the subject." By the course adopted, the orthodox sentiments of the people were conciliated and several other girls' schools also subsequently started gained in popularity. A school was later opened at the important pilgrimage centre of Melkote and another was established at Tumkur to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887, both mainly maintained from private funds. By the year 1889 women's education

came to be regarded as an object of general approval and the Maharani's Girls' School was always looked up to as a guide. An English lady of good literary attainments was at this time deemed necessary to be appointed as Lady Superintendent at its head.

An important change was made in the system of supervision over girls' schools throughout the State. To enable the local people directly interested in the success of women's education to watch over the growth of the system and so direct it that every step taken might enlist in advance the sympathy and support of the native community at large, Government placed in 1890 every girls' school maintained from State funds under the immediate supervision of a local committee. The committees were given large powers of management and the initiative was generally allowed to rest in almost all cases with them. Women's education, the Government considered, could not become firmly established in the country until the people began to look upon the education of their girls, whether children or adults, as necessary and as obligatory as that of their boys.

The Maharani's Girls' School, Mysore, Arya Balika Pathasala in Bangalore and the Empress Girls' School at Tumkur which had been started and worked as aided private institutions were later converted into Government institutions on account of their size and importance and were also placed under the supervision of committees. The Maharani's Girls' School underwent a thorough revision of its system of studies and management at the hands of the influential committee appointed to supervise it. Five Brahmin ladies trained in the school were appointed teachers in the same institution and subsequently the number was raised to 16 as lady teachers became available. So many as 59 girl pupils above the age of 12 attended the Maharani's School showing strong indications of the disillusion of social prejudices against women's education. A training class consisting of ten pupils was also for the first time opened and a graduate of Newnham College, Cambridge, was appointed Lady Superintendent. Before leaving this subject, it may be stated that in its early years women's education owed its progress to the zealous services of Rai Bahadur A. Narasimha

Iyengar whom we have already met as tutor to Chamaraja Wodeyar and who subsequently as Durbar Bakshi to His Highness used all the influence he possessed for the wider spread of knowledge among women, not to speak of the large sums he spent from his own purse in behalf of a cause of which he was an earnest advocate.

Various other measures of improvement in education were also introduced during this reign. An Industrial School was opened at Mysore in February 1892 with arrangements for imparting instruction in carpentry, blacksmiths' work, masonry, pottery, rattan work and free-hand drawing. The pupils of this school were drawn from all classes—Hindus of all castes, Mahomedans, Native Christians and Eurasians. The Maharaja's College affiliated to the Madras University was raised to the first grade and came to occupy the same status as the other first grade college in the State, namely, the Central College at Bangalore. A number of Government scholarships was instituted for the benefit of the Mysore students to study the subjects of Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Arts and Forestry in the British Indian Colleges at Poona, Madras, Bombay and Dehra Dun. In 1888 the Maharaja instituted a system of special scholarships for the benefit of the palegar pensionaries of the State and for the Mahomedans. The former were designed as inducements to the principal palegar houses to put the younger members of their families under suitable courses of instruction to qualify them for the public service. It was found that the Mahomedans had not come forward readily to avail themselves of the benefits of higher education and the scholarships now provided for them were intended as an encouragement to march alongside of the other communities. The fees payable by Mahomedan pupils were also reduced to half of the usual rates so as to give special impetus to the spread of education among them.

Government aid was also extended to a large number of private schools, among which were included many giving instruction in Sanskrit. The promotion of the study of Sanskrit in conjunction with that of Kanada was calculated to raise the general standard of education in the country. An examination known as

the Mysore Local Examination for vernacular candidates was instituted in 1886, while the Middle School Examination afforded a similar goal to the pupils of English Schools. The Mysore Local Examination was also later recognised as a qualifying test for some of the subordinate grades of the public service.

His Highness was a great patron of Sanskrit and Kanada learning. The Sanskrit college which had been started some years before was greatly improved and examinations in all branches of that learning open to scholars from all parts of India were instituted and liberal rewards were given to them at the durbar during the Dasara festival, along with the certificates of merit. To encourage Kanada learning and literature a Sabha was started under the name of 'Karnataka Bhashojjivini Sabha' and a pathasala was also established in connection with it. Pandits Seetharama Sastry, Kasturi Rangachar, Vyakarana Shamachar and Sundara Sastrigal were noted Sanskrit Pandits at the time. Basavappa Sastry was a Kanada scholar of great merit who wrote not only original works but also brought out apt translations into Kanada of Kalidasa's 'Sakuntala' and other dramas in Sanskrit. Among the Mahomedans was Moulvi Shabudin, a well-known scholar both in Urdu and Persian. To mark the appreciation of His Highness for great learning or extraordinary public services, various titles were instituted and were conferred on deserving men. Prior to the period of Chamaraja Wodeyar there were no regularly constituted theatres in Mysore of the modern type. His Highness established one and attached it to the Palace and gave considerable encouragement to those connected with it. The catholicity of the Maharaja's mind may be understood from the fact that he was the first Hindu Ruler who gave material encouragement to Swami Vivekananda and enabled him to proceed to Chicago to attend the Parliament of Religions held there.

In 1887 on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria advantage was taken to found an institute at Mysore as a memorial of the occasion, in which it was proposed to make as complete a collection as possible of ancient manuscripts both Sanskrit and Kanada and to provide facilities for scholars for

consulting and obtaining copies of the works. This Oriental Library was opened to scholars for the first time in October 1891. In the last year of His Highness' reign there were in all in this library 1653 printed works and 1358 manuscripts in Kanada and Sanskrit.

In 1890 it was found that a more vigorous and systematic effort was needed for the completion of the archæological survey of the State. In the neighbouring Madras and Bombay Presidencies regular archæological survey had already been established and it was found that Mysore by occupying an intermediate position often contained the key or connecting link to much that was being discovered in those Presidencies. Accordingly this work was separated from that of the Education Secretary and B. L. Rice was put in sole charge of it, as he was by his high scholarly attainments and varied researches in Indian antiquities regarded as specially qualified to take charge of the work. The most important of the inscriptions found in Mysore were the edicts of Asoka in the Molakalmuru taluk of the Chitaldrug district. These edicts subsequently formed the subject of learned papers published in Paris, Vienna and London. At the end of each of the inscriptions were a few letters which were later deciphered by Professor Buhler of Vienna as the word 'Lipikarena' indicating the profession of the engraver in Kharoshtri or Baktrian-Pali characters which were written from left to right.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### **Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.**

**Four distinguished visitors—Lord Dufferin, Prince Albert Victor, Lord Lansdowne and Field-Marshal Sir George Wolsley (later Viscount) Commander-in-chief.**

Lord Lytton was the last Viceroy that visited Mysore in the days of the British Commission. But his visit was purely a business one in connection with the mitigation of the acute famine that prevailed at the time in the Mysore State. Lord Dufferin who succeeded the Marquis of Ripon was the first Viceroy to pay a friendly and ceremonial visit to the Maharaja at Mysore in November 1886. The Countess of Dufferin also accompanied her husband on this occasion. His Excellency arrived at Mysore on the 1st December and was received by His Highness and other principal officers and citizens of the State with all the honours due to the rank of so distinguished a guest. There was an exchange of visits later between the Maharaja and the Viceroy on the same day. At night the Palace was brilliantly illuminated.

On the same night a State banquet was given at which the Maharaja proposed the health of the Queen-Empress, and the Dewan on behalf of the Maharaja proposed the health of the Viceroy and of Lady Dufferin in a speech full of sentiments of gratitude to the British Government for the generosity shown in restoring to their ancient heritage the old Hindu Royal family of Mysore and for the benefits conferred on the country by British rule for a period of half a century. Towards the end of the Dewan's speech a reference was also made to the movement started by the Countess of Dufferin whose labour of love in the cause of the suffering women of India had won for her a high place in the affections of the Princes and peoples of India.

Lord Dufferin in responding to the toast gave expression, among other matters, to these sentiments:—"Under the benevolent rule of the Maharaja good government, enlightened progress and the blessings of education are everywhere in the ascendent and

there is no State within the compass of the Indian Empire which has more fully justified the wise policy of the British Government in supplementing its own direct administration of its vast territories by the associated rule of our great feudatory Princes..... It has now been my good fortune to have passed through most of the Native States of India and to have come into intimate contact with the Chiefs, and I have no hesitation in saying that though there may be differences between them, though some states may be more advanced than the others, some rulers less sensitive than others to the weighty responsibilities imposed on them by Providence, on the whole my experiences have been eminently satisfactory and reassuring and the Queen-Empress and the Government of Great Britain have the greatest reason to congratulate themselves on the general enlightenment, the desire to do their duty and the conscientious application to affairs which are so generally prevalent amongst them."

After the banquet, there was in addition to the display of fireworks a performance of a very interesting and exciting kind of war-dance by a party of Manjarabad Gowdas. Illuminated by various coloured lights, the figures and faces of the dancers are described to have assumed most fantastic appearances, while the successive flashes from their swords lent a fierce lustre to the performance and conveyed the impression of a real warfare.

The next day the Viceroy received an address from the members of the Representative Assembly of Mysore and referring to the general contentment prevailing in the country said:—"That you should use such terms does not surprise me, for your good fortune has placed you under the rule of one of the most intelligent, upright and high-minded among the great Princes of India and when I leave this country, I shall have the satisfaction of knowing that, at all events so far as this part of the country is concerned, its welfare, its proper security and its peace are amply provided for..... I am very glad that you have touched upon the question of education, as it gives me an opportunity of impressing in as earnest and as strong a language as I can command, the extraordinary pleasure I have experienced in seeing on every side such



manifest signs of the deep interest with which that subject is regarded in this State as well as of the liberal and intelligent energy with which its development is being prosecuted. When I passed along what I imagine must have been a quarter of a mile of street, lined on either side in rows of eight and ten deep, with the youth of the country congregated under their respective teachers, I felt that you were laying broad and deep for all time to come the foundations of a prosperous future. But great as has been my satisfaction at these proofs of the progress made in general education, I was still more pleased by a sight which, I imagine, is not to be seen in any other part of India and that was the appearance of rows and rows of young ladies belonging to the highest caste families assembled together under the same admirable system and enjoying, as far as I can understand, as extensive opportunities of acquiring knowledge, of enlarging their experience and of strengthening their understanding as could be found in any of the most advanced cities of Europe. And those gentlemen who are the leaders of society and who represent the aristocracy of the land, who have in so generous and liberal-minded a manner seconded the able efforts of Her Highness the Maharani to establish the Mysore female school are entitled to the greatest credit for their exertions..... I am pleased to think that the Maharaja should have called to his counsels men of such intelligence, influence and authority as I see around me."

On the 2nd December Lady Dufferin presided at a prize distribution to the pupils of the Maharani's Girls' School. This school was started on the 21st January 1881 with a strength of 28 pupils. It was necessary to establish this school in order to make women's education popular among the upper grades of the Hindu society consistently with their cherished customs and manners. At the time of Lady Dufferin's visit in December 1886 the strength of the school had risen to 463 pupils, of whom 6 had reached the high school stage. A home-teaching branch was opened to continue the education of such girls as could no longer attend school on account of their domestic circumstances and to impart instruction to some elderly ladies who began to express a desire for studying at home being unable and unwilling to attend school in consequence of their conditions of life. This branch began with 15 pupils and two

teachers and in 1886 when Lady Dufferin visited the school there were 67 pupils, one of whom was a middle aged widow belonging to a respectable orthodox family. One subject on which special stress was laid in the school was the teaching of Hindu music which was considered essential for women for being sung on festive occasions. The study of Sanskrit occupied an important position in the curriculum, for it was deemed a living language so far as moral and religious readings were concerned. After the prize distribution was over, Lady Dufferin and the Viceroy proceeded to shake hands with a number of those present and expressed their warm interest in the work which had been undertaken. At night there was an entertainment in the Rangacharlu Memorial Hall which was brilliantly illuminated on the occasion. The entertainment programme included a nautch, a performance on swords and a Hindu drama 'Droupadi Swayamvara.' The last was acted in Kanada by a group of high caste young men. The Viceroy seemed interested in the whole performance but especially with the dancing on swords. After the entertainment was over, he went up to examine the stand upon which the blades were fixed.

Later, after Lady Dufferin returned to England, she published a book called "Our Viceregal Life in India" in which occurs the following passage:—"When we saw them (the young children of the Maharaja, two girls and a boy) they were all carried in by men, though the eldest girl is six years old. She and her sister looked intensely solemn and wore their hair plaited very stiffly and smoothly down. The boy looked very delicate."

The next visitor to Mysore was the lamented Prince Albert Victor, eldest son of King Edward VII, then Prince of Wales. His Royal Highness landed at Bombay on the 9th November 1889 and after visiting Hyderabad and Madras left the latter place on the night of the 22nd. On the morning of the 23rd the royal train passed Bangalore on its way to Mysore and halted at Seringapatam for a while. Here the first sight noticed by the Prince was that near the railway bridge where feathery bamboos were hanging down to the water's edge of the Kaveri river and spreading their roots were completing the destruction of the fort-walls begun by British

guns in 1799. The Prince visited the corner where the breach was made and through which the British troops entered and the place where they divided themselves into two parties. The next place visited was the summer-house of Tippu known as Daria Dowlat, a beautiful garden-house of open halls and verandahs. From the Daria Dowlat the royal party proceeded to the Mausoleum of Haidar and Tippu. After luncheon, the party crossed the second branch of the Kaveri at Paschimavahini and boarded the special train.

At the Mysore Railway-station the Prince was met by the Maharaja attended by the Dewan and other officers as well as by notable men of the place, besides a complimentary escort consisting of the Mysore Lancers, gaily caparisoned elephants, the Mysore infantry clad in scarlet, carriages drawn by teams of white horses wearing pink aigrattes and other paraphernalia of magnificence.

The next day the 24th of November was spent in exchange of visits between the Prince and the Maharaja and in a visit to the Maharani's Girls' School. At the time the Prince visited the school it is stated that there were five hundred well-dressed and intelligent girls between the ages of six and sixteen. From the Maharani's Girls' School the Prince paid a visit to the Palace. At night there was a banquet in honour of the distinguished visitor. After the banquet was over, His Royal Highness was driven round the city to witness the illuminations. The large tank to the east of the fort known as the Doddakere tank was lighted up by thousands of wicks burning in earthen saucers containing oil. Eight circular basket boats floated over a surface of small rippling waves, their gunwales being picked out with lamps, the reflections of which shimmered down the slowly moving surface of the water. In the centre of the lake was a glittering white house built of pith and talc, all one blaze of light. Later in the same night there was an entertainment in the Rangacharlu Memorial Hall where were presented some unusual features. On either side of the vestibule had been placed transparencies exhibiting types of the various classes of people who inhabited the Mysore country. These were all in pairs, male and female, in their usual costume. Among them

were a few peculiar ones—the Saranas who served at the temple, the male carrying a bell in his right and a bunch of peacock feathers in his left hand and an umbrella under his left arm, and the female also carried a bell and wore a rough bead necklace and bead wristlets; Vuribattidasiyas or fire-eaters, the man carrying a saucer of fire on his head and in his left hand a lighted wick, the end of which he now and again put into his mouth, the female carrying faggots under her left arm; Jenukuruba or honey-drawer dressed in very simple costume with only a cloth girt about his loins and carrying only a stick.

On the morning of the 25th November the Maharaja drove the Prince forty-six miles on his way to the Khedda camp in the Chamarajnagar taluk where G. P. Sanderson, the famous elephant shikar of the time, awaited the party. The locality chosen for the operations was the Biligirirangan hills, a small range by some thirty miles in length by ten in width which formed a portion of the southern boundary of Mysore. His Royal Highness' drive from Mysore to the camp was somewhat long and wearisome and the last five miles were accomplished on horseback under a hot sun. The royal party and the gentlemen accompanying arrived at a place called Budipadaga at 1-30 p.m. The quiet neighbourhood of this place was enlivened by much bustle and preparations, with the result that a canvas city had come into existence. There was one main road terminating at one end at His Royal Highness' tent and flanked on each side by the tents of His Highness the Maharaja, Colonel Sir Oliver St. John the British Resident in Mysore, Dewan Seshadri Iyer and of the other visitors who were invited to be present and officials whose duties necessitated their presence there. Native shop-keepers were established with stocks of rice and other provisions for sale to the camp followers. A temporary post office was also opened.

After bath and breakfast, a start was made for the Khedda where a herd of elephants had been impounded. His Royal Highness and Sir Edward Bradford who was attached to the personal staff of the Prince rode on an elephant and Sanderson accompanied them to explain to His Royal Highness the arrange-

ments by which the herd had been surrounded and what the further programme was. The Maharaja, Sir Oliver St. John and others rode on horseback, while the Dewan trotted along in a small bullock-cart belonging to Sanderson which was well adapted for jungle travel. On arriving at the Khedda the party proceeded on foot outside the enclosure to a sort of jungle grand stand. This stand overlooked at a distance of thirty yards the gateway through which the elephants were to be driven into the small Khedda or enclosure in which they were to be secured. The pavilion was screened with leaves as were also the gateway and the barricades and the whole of the enclosure and the ground in front of it where all had lately been trampled and bare had been converted into a dense, cool covert by the simple horticultural expedient of sticking feathery bamboos and leafy saplings into the ground to a height greater than the elephants' backs. The pavilion was sixty feet long and ten wide and a level space had been made for it by cutting into the steep hillside and using the earth for banking up the floor. Along the whole length of the pavilion a bench made of bamboos extended and the floor and roof were neatly matted. The rope by which the gate of the Khedda was suspended was led to this place and secured, so that by cutting a small cord the gate was to be released. The Maharaja was entrusted with a knife for cutting the cord, an experienced hunter standing near to apprise when the correct moment arrived.

All had been prepared for the drive before the arrival of His Royal Highness and the party. The beaters were in position and only awaited the signal to begin. A platform had been constructed on a tree which overhung a stream about twenty yards from the gate by which the elephants were to enter the first enclosure and where it was necessary for Sanderson to station himself to help the men at the moment of getting the elephants through the gates and where the beasts were likely to break and charge the beaters. The platform had been made large enough to accommodate more than one in case the Prince desired to see the drive from that point. This the Prince elected to do and accompanied by Captain Harvey and Sanderson, His Royal Highness climbed the ladder into the

platform which had been made comfortable by an elephant's soft pad being spread as a cushion to sit on.

Immediately the signal was given the beat commenced and after much varied fortune the herd breaking back more than once, the animals came and stood close to the tree on which stood the Prince's platform. His Royal Highness had a good view of them here at the distance of but a few yards. The herd ought to have been driven in at the first attempt. But the beaters were somewhat excited on the occasion and it was some time before the herd was made to descend the bank of the stream under the tree on which was the platform. At last in a compact herd, each individual elephant struggling not to be last, they crowded through the gateway into the first enclosure urged on by several charges of small shot which His Royal Highness plied them with. The herd continued its march through this enclosure into the inner one, above which on the hillside a visitors' stand had been erected and the rope controlling the gate of which was in the Maharaja's hands. As soon as all the elephants entered the inner enclosure His Highness dropped the gate. All was made secure in a short time, when the dividing gate between the enclosures was hauled up and on a few of the hunters climbing the stockade and showing themselves, the elephants retired into the first enclosure. They were then left for the night with the run of the two enclosures which were guarded all round with fires by the hunters. His Royal Highness and party returned on horseback led by men with torches to the camp at Budipadaga.

About 1 p.m. the next day the Prince and the visitors again started for the Khedda to see the operation of tying up the captives. By the time the royal party arrived, the elephants had all been driven into the inner enclosure where they were temporarily confined, while the gate of the outer enclosure was opened and the tame elephants or 'Koonkies' as they were called were admitted. These were twelve in number and had been brought to Mysore some months previously from Dacca, 1000 miles away in Bengal. They were all females except one and were all highly trained animals that had been employed in the Bengal Kheddass. They were

exceedingly docile and allowed the men to move about among their legs, taking care not to injure them intentionally or by inadvertance. The Mahuts or keepers of these elephants were also men from Dacca. These Koonkies were drawn up in a row awaiting the re-admission to the outer enclosure of the herd confined in the inner one. Some of the Koonkies had ropes hanging down their shoulders as a sort of ladder, by which the men below could quickly climb up their backs during the work of tying up if danger threatened them. Seated behind the Mahuts on the backs of two of the best elephants were two chief rope-tiers who with no clothing but a pair of short drawers and with the ready ropes in their hands were anxious to begin the difficult and dangerous work of leashing each elephant's legs together.

When the Prince, the Maharaja, Sir Oliver St. John and visitors had taken their places, the gate dividing the enclosures was opened and the herd was driven towards the enclosure where the Koonkies were. As soon as some ten or twelve elephants had entered, the others were frightened back and the gate was closed, the object being to make the work of the Koonkies more easy by only giving them a few elephants at a time to deal with. Among the elephants that were cut off from entry was the mother of a calf which latter had found its way in advance of her. Missing her little one and divining where it had gone, the mother charged the gate with the force, it is said, of a battering ram. The men had just commenced to secure it but she burst it open and with the heavy flap gate dangling on her head and back she got through and joined her young one.

The wild elephants now approached the Koonkies which were drawn up in a line to make their acquaintance as it were. No sooner was the dividing gate once more secured than the work of tying up commenced. A tame one was ranged up along each side of the largest wild one, while another was placed face to face to it to prevent it from moving forward. The rope-tiers now slipped to the ground and standing close behind the wild elephant dexterously secured its legs together by thin ropes in a figure of 8. During this time the tame elephants on each side of the wild one squeezed

it tightly between them and it being unable to see behind was not aware of what was being done to its hind legs as the ropes were lightly tied. A soft rope of loosely twisted jute as thick as a man's arm was now secured to one hind leg and the end taken to a tree by a rope-tier under shelter of a couple of tame elephants. Two turns being taken round the tree the wild elephant was backed against it from where it stood several yards away. This was done by the tame elephants between which it stood being backed, while the elephant facing the wild one butted and forced it to retire. After the tame ones left it, the wild elephant struggled hard to release itself by throwing itself on the ground and its hind legs raised straight behind it, but all to no avail. In this way the larger elephants were quickly secured, when the time of the youngsters came. For all of five and a half feet in height and under, the simple plan of lassoing was adopted. Each tame elephant had a stout, soft rope fastened round it, about 15 feet of the rope being free and having a running noose at the end. This was held open by the Mahut with both hands and thrown over the head of any young elephant that offered a good chance. In this manner all the elephants 37 in number were secured and after large cables had been put round the necks of the bigger ones, they were all marched out tied to one or two Koonkies according to size and were then fastened in a large clearing among the trees where the undergrowth had all been removed. Here fodder had been cut and stacked in readiness and despite the strangeness of their position, none of them refused the succulent grass and bamboo leaves that were placed before them.

After bison shooting for a day, the party returned to Mysore on the 28th November and left for Bangalore the next day, where also a grand reception was accorded to the Prince. Before the Prince proceeded to Travancore, one of the functions performed by His Royal Highness was the laying of the foundation-stone of a permanent building for the periodical horticultural show in the Lal Bagh gardens belonging to the Mysore Government.

The next visitor was Lord Lansdowne who was the second Viceroy to visit Mysore after the termination of the British



Commission. His Excellency accompanied by Lady Lansdowne and his staff arrived at Mysore on the 10th November 1892 and was received by the Maharaja, his principal officers and the leading men of the State with all the pomp and ceremonial usual on such occasions. The same night there was a State banquet in the Jagan Mohan Palace. Lord Lansdowne in responding to the toast of his health proposed by the Dewan on behalf of the Maharaja, referred to the momentous change which had been made eleven years previously in the administration of the country by placing it in the hands of an Indian Ruler and said that the responsibility of those who had taken that step was a very serious one. "I am glad to bear witness to the fact," he further said, "that His Highness has never given cause to regret the decision carried out in 1881 by Lord Ripon's Government. The Mysore State far from adding to our cares and anxieties has been administered with much success. Its people are contented with their position and its ruler has shown by his acts that he was worthy of the trust reposed in him. If the result had been different, the Maharaja would certainly have been held accountable. The result having been what it is, he is entitled to the most liberal measure of credit. He has proved himself an intelligent and upright ruler who has from the commencement of his reign shown himself alive to the duties of his position. His Highness has received an education which has enabled him to profit by the culture and understand the political ideas of the West. But he has not lost touch of his own people or forfeited their confidence and probably there is no State in India where the ruler and the ruled are on more satisfactory terms or in which the great principle upon which His Highness has insisted—Government should be for the happiness of the governed—receives a greater measure of practical recognition. There is, perhaps, no better test of the soundness of the administration than its ability to pass without discredit through a period of exceptional difficulty. The Mysore State has lately encountered such a trial and has, I am glad to say, surmounted it successfully. I have to express my acknowledgments of the manner in which His Highness has placed a portion of his troops under special discipline, in order to qualify them to take their place alongside of ours for the defence of the empire. I am

glad to think that that portion of the outlay which has been appropriated for the Imperial Service troops has been the means of adding to the resources of the empire as well as to the efficiency of the Mysore army without imposing an excessive burden upon the exchequer of the State. There is one other matter as to which I should like to say a few words. I have watched with the utmost interest the valuable experiment which His Highness has instituted in the formation of the consultative council known as the Mysore Representative Assembly. This council has been in existence ever since His Highness' accession and of late years he has increased its numbers and has invited the various Local Boards, Municipalities and Public Associations to depute members to it. More recently still, the wealthier classes of the community have been permitted to choose a certain proportion of the members and I understand that the qualification for membership has been fixed so as to include not only the largest land-holders and the most representative merchants and traders but also in certain cases the possession of a high education has been recognised as in itself a qualification. His Highness has found that his hands have been materially strengthened by the deliberations of the public body thus constituted and I sincerely congratulate him on the result of the experiment. It is one which possesses a particular interest for me, because as you are aware the Government of India is at this moment itself engaged in a very interesting attempt to increase the numbers and to enlarge the functions of its own Legislative Councils. His Highness in his desire to inform himself of the feelings of the leading classes and people of Mysore has, it seems to me, acted with true statesmanlike instincts..... I am glad to have this opportunity of publicly assuring His Highness of the goodwill and approval of the Government of India."

On the morning of the 12th November the party drove to Hinkul, a distance of 3 miles where the Imperial Service troops of Mysore was stationed. The regiment was drawn up on the parade ground under the command of Colonel McIntyre, Military Secretary to the Mysore Government, and was inspected by the Viceroy and the Maharaja and were then put through some manœuvres culminating in the march past. The troops drew from

His Excellency encomiums for their smartness and up-to-date methods.

In the afternoon several addresses were presented to the Viceroy, one of which was from the members of the Representative Assembly in which reference was made to the necessity of some kind of legislation for the prevention of infant marriages and the Viceroy's reply to this part of the address is interesting:—"I shall be glad to hear," he said, "that your efforts to secure a measure of reform in regard to infant marriages are successful. The subject is one of very great difficulty. The Government of India has, as you are aware, given practical proof of its desire to protect immature children. But in passing the measure to which I refer—a measure which appeared to us to be required in the interests of humanity—the Government of India did not attempt to interfere with the domestic institutions of this country. As such, we feel that it is mainly to the spontaneous action of the people, whether within or without the limits of British India, that we must look for social reforms of the kind which you desire to effect."

To afford an opportunity for the Viceroy and his party to witness the catching of elephants, Khedda operations had been arranged in the Kakankote Jungles at a distance of about 30 miles from Mysore. G. P. Sanderson to whose labours the success of the Khedda conducted on the occasion of the visit of Prince Albert Victor in 1889 was due had died sometime previously and no one coveted to take his place at Kakankote. It was at such a time that an Amildar by name K. Shama Iyengar came forward and offered his services to relieve the Mysore Durbar from the embarrassing position in which they found themselves. Shama Iyengar's audacity was the wonder of his friends. Amateur though he was, he succeeded in every detail of the operations and was profusely complimented by the Viceroy on the success achieved by him. On the afternoon of the next day the party left for Seringapatam and after visiting all places of interest there, the Viceroy, Lady Lansdowne and staff left for Bangalore by special train.

Field-Marshal Sir George Wolsley (later Viscount) who succeeded the Duke of Cambridge as Commander-in-chief of the

British army in 1895 was a visitor to Mysore during the Dasara of 1894 and in a paper contributed by him to one of the English magazines has made the following interesting observations:—"The day after I reached Mysore, I drove with His Highness round the lake (or properly speaking, the tank) to the new race course and it was on that occasion that I first saw his five children—three daughters and two sons. The eldest princess is of marriageable age according to eastern etiquette being nearly fourteen. But owing to her father's enlightened views, she is fortunate enough to be exempted from what is called the Purdah..... Just before the race began, the children joined their father and kept up a brisk conversation all the time with their English governess by whom they were accompanied. The young princesses did not wear either hats or bonnets, but they had strings of pearls and other precious stones twisted in their dark, silky hair. The two little boys both of whom speak English very prettily wore coats of richly brocaded silk and trousers to match, together with turbans thickly sprinkled with pearls and emeralds which glittered and sparkled brightly as the sun's rays flashed upon them. Both they and their sisters looked bright and intelligent and they all seemed to be healthy and happy."

## **CHAPTER XIX.**

**Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.**

### **The Representative Assembly and its growth.**

In October 1883 in his address to the Representative Assembly Sir Seshadri Iyer assured the members that the Maharaja took great interest in the success of the annual meeting of the representatives and entertained the hope that the Assembly would become, year after year, more and more useful to the country. It had become manifest that it was in the power of the representatives to contribute in some measure to the good government and prosperity of the country by carefully watching the working of the administration in all its branches, by unhesitatingly pointing out all shortcomings that might strike them and by affording practical suggestions for improving the condition of all classes of His Highness' subjects. Again in October 1885 Sir Seshadri Iyer assured the representatives that the Maharaja had become fully convinced that the opportunities given for the representation of public wants and for the suggestion of measures calculated to better the condition of the people was appreciated as a valuable privilege in all parts of the State. The continued interest the representatives evinced and the practical common sense which characterised their discussions had disproved the misgivings of the earlier period whether the establishment of an institution of the kind was not premature. Strengthened by this assurance, His Highness' Government now took a step forward in widening the privileges of the members by investing the Local Boards with power to nominate their representatives to the Assembly from among their members.

Prior to 1887, in order to represent the landed interests the Deputy Commissioners had been required to select from each taluk one or two cultivating land-holders possessed of general influence and information. Similarly it had been left to the same officers to select three or four leading merchants for each district generally to represent the interests of trade. In August 1887 a property qualification was introduced, the numbers for each district were

fixed and the names of the members were published in the official Gazette. Recognised public Associations were also allowed to depute representatives. The Dewan in his speech to the Assembly that met in October following referring to these changes said that His Highness the Maharaja's earnest desire to take the people into his confidence more and more in the adoption of various measures for their advancement had been very fairly realised and that the success attained in the past six years afforded an encouragement to his Government to persevere in their endeavours to make the Assembly of still greater help for the good administration of the State. The Dewan also explained that the changes newly introduced were intended to secure in the Assembly as full a representation as possible of every interest in the country and thereby to procure the most complete information regarding the wants and wishes of every class of His Highness' subjects. In fixing a property qualification in an agricultural country like Mysore the first place was naturally accorded to the land-holders and each of the sixty-six taluks that then existed was authorised to send five of its largest land-holders. In the provision which enabled the Local Boards and Municipalities to nominate members for the Assembly there was a fair guarantee for the representation of all other classes and localities, while the privilege given to the important Associations to depute members afforded the means of securing the views of the more advanced section of the community.

Before 1887 there existed no rules of any kind to regulate the proceedings of the Assembly. The course generally followed was that at the termination of the Dewan's address the members individually made such observations and representations as suggested themselves to them at the time. Generally one or two of the representatives of each district acted as spokesmen except when any particular member stood forward to give expression to any particular statement. In 1887 it was prescribed that the members of the several districts were to meet together at Mysore and choose in concert the subjects for discussion and to nominate persons to speak on the subjects chosen. The object of these measures was to render the discussions more useful and to give to the observations of such members the authority and weight which

the opinions of individuals could not by themselves be expected to possess.

Satisfactory as the working of the Assembly on the above lines proved itself to be, the subject of further improving the constitution of the Assembly again engaged the attention of Government in 1890. At the meeting of the Assembly of that year, Sir Seshadri Iyer complimented the members on the moderation, the intelligence and the practical good sense which had in the past characterised their discussions and on the material help they had given in the discussion of important questions and on the sustained interest they had evinced in public affairs. The Maharaja was now convinced that the time had arrived when the wealthier and more enlightened classes could with safety be entrusted with the privilege of choosing the members to the Assembly. A set of draft rules was accordingly placed before the Assembly for discussion and in these rules the property qualification was so fixed as to include the largest landholders and the leading merchants and traders in each taluk, besides high education being made a qualification by itself for a voter to exercise the privilege of election. The property qualification proposed was the payment of a land revenue of from Rs. 100 to Rs. 300 or of a Mohatarfa tax of from Rs. 13 or more, or the ownership of one or more inam villages with a total assessment of Rs. 500. These property qualifications were expected to give not less than 50 qualified persons on an average for each of the 66 taluks. All persons so qualified by property or by education were to meet and elect from among themselves 2, 3 or 4 persons according to a fixed scale as members of the Assembly for their respective taluks as well as for the cities of Bangalore and Mysore. In addition to the members thus elected, the various Local Fund Boards, Municipalities and Public Associations were also to depute members to the Assembly from among themselves. The maximum number of members of the Assembly thus constituted was expected to be about 351. The Dewan closed this subject at the meeting of the Assembly in 1890 with these earnest and significant words :—“ Let me add that it is His Highness' sincere hope that the privilege he has now been pleased to grant will be exercised to the fullest extent and in the most beneficial manner possible and that it will be so appreciated

by all as to enable His Highness gradually to enlarge the circle of electors, so as to give wider effect to the principle of representation in the constitution of this Assembly." The new rules were brought into effect in the following year and the Assembly which met in the Dasara of 1891 was elected under these rules.

At a meeting of the Assembly on the 15th October 1891, the Dewan communicated to the representatives the gratification of the Maharaja that all misgivings naturally entertained as to how the experiment of obtaining representatives for the Assembly by election would succeed, had been dispelled and that though unused to the system the electoral body had been able in the very first year of its existence to exercise the privilege with so much judgment and sense of responsibility and to send to the Assembly men in every way qualified to speak on its behalf. The Dewan further said that the fact that men representing the capital, the industry and the intellect of the country should have so early taken so much interest in the scheme augured well for the future of the institution. He also conveyed a message from His Highness acknowledging the expressions of warm gratitude which had reached him from all sides for the privilege of election granted. In 1893 a further reform was introduced by which the system of annual election was replaced by one of triennial election which the representatives had been urging on the attention of Government. The Dewan in referring to this subject stated that it had given the Maharaja great pleasure to extend the duration of the Assembly from one to three years, especially as His Highness hoped that the concession granted would enhance the interest of the members in the subjects brought forward by them and would afford them the opportunity for continuous action from year to year, adding thereby largely to the further practical usefulness of the Assembly.

It need hardly be stated that the scope of this book does not allow of any exhaustive summary being given of the proceedings of the Assembly. To satisfy, however, the curiosity of our readers as to the lines on which the proceedings were conducted, a short summary of the exchange of views between the Government and the members of the Assembly relating to some of the important



subjects discussed in the earlier years may be given. The discussions of the Assembly extended to every department in the State and related to a variety of subjects. 'To merge their individual grievances in those of the community in general and by a due attention to public interests to qualify themselves for higher privileges'—these words had formed the text of an exhortation by Rangacharlu to the representatives assembled for the first time in 1881. There was little need, however, for this appeal to the representatives not to confound, in Tennyson's language, the rustic cackle of their burgh with the murmur of the world. They quite understood that the great object of the new institution was the promotion of the public interests in general, and that if they looked to securing any personal advantages or obtaining redress for any personal grievances, they would be disappointed. Accordingly a Hindu member Tangali Seshappa and a Mahomedan member Syed Amir Ali Sahib assured Rangacharlu of their abiding sense of gratefulness for the privilege granted to them and of their resolve to offer their co-operation in a disinterested manner. The succeeding years showed that these assurances were no mere idle words but had a ring of sincerity in them.

From the keen interest the representatives evinced from the very beginning in the proceedings of the Assembly, His Highness' advisers evidently felt encouraged to take them more and more into their confidence. The local or individual grievances to which Rangacharlu made reference were very few in number, a lamp-post at Kolar, a midwife at Chikballapur, a chattram or free-feeding house at Arasikere, and even here it may be observed that though the subjects were local they were not personal. In expressing their loyalty and attachment to the person and the family of the Maharaja as well as in expressing their gratefulness for the benefits conferred on the country by the Paramount Power, the representatives were ever to the front. In 1884 on the occasion of the birth of a son and heir to the Maharaja, Ganesh Rao a coffee-planter from Kadur read an address in which the great honour of the title of G. C. S. I. conferred on His Highness by the Queen-Empress and the birth of a

prince as heir to the throne were referred to as joyful events for which they all returned thanks to Providence. In 1885 the representatives obtained the permission of His Highness' Government to present an address of thanks to the Imperial Government for the postponment of the enhanced Subsidy for a period of ten years. In December 1886 when Lord Dufferin visited Mysore, the representatives took occasion to assemble at the capital and in an address presented to the Viceroy, repeated on behalf of the people of Mysore their deep gratitude for the lasting benefits which the half-century of British rule had conferred on them. Lord Dufferin in his reply stated that it was always a fortunate circumstance when a Viceroy found himself in the midst of a community who were able to bring to his notice such proofs of their general prosperity as to which the members had referred, and still more so, when in the language with which he was approached, he saw evidence of an equally wide-spread contentment with the administration under which they lived. He finally complimented them by saying that he was glad that the Maharaja had called to his counsels men of such intelligence and influence. In November 1892 when Lord Lansdowne visited Mysore, the members of the Assembly presented an address to him also and a few sentences quoted from his reply will show what keen interest he felt in the success of the experiment which had been inaugurated by the Maharaja. "The inquiries which I have made from those who are best able to judge," said the Viceroy, "have satisfied me that your proceedings have served a most useful purpose and have brought His Highness' Government into touch with all classes of the community. I have heard with much pleasure that your discussions have been conducted in a thoroughly practical spirit and that on the one hand, the members have not hesitated to bring forward grievances where they existed, while on the other the Dewan had dealt in the frankest possible manner with the suggestions which have been made. You are quite right in supposing that this remarkable experiment has a special interest in my eyes, because the Government of India is at this moment engaged in introducing considerable changes in the constitution and functions of the British Indian Legislative Councils."

The functions of the representatives, it may be noted, were not confined to mere thanksgiving or to mere presentation of addresses but they also pressed their claims for more substantial privileges. The progress of the Assembly was due as much to the earnest importunity of the members as to the sympathetic interest of the Government in its improvement. Whenever the occasion demanded it, the representatives did not hold back from giving fearless expression to their demands. At the same time, they kept themselves aloof generally from what could be regarded as discourteous or obnoxious criticism. The Government of the time amply appreciated this attitude on the part of the members and hardly on any occasion was the cordiality subsisting between the Government and the members disturbed. In 1883 the representatives raised the question of the Famine Debt of nearly a crore of rupees due to the Government of India and sought for information concerning the arrangements made for its liquidation. They wished to know whether the Government had any idea of fresh taxation in the shape of general land customs or general house-tax; and they were satisfied only when they were assured by the Dewan that a way had been devised to reduce the famine loan without imposing any new charge on the country and that the Government of India had very considerably consented to receive the loan in annual instalments of four lakhs each. In the same year a request was made that all the proceedings of the Government might be in Kannda also. The Government considered this request a reasonable one. Having called the representative men of the country to the counsels of the State, it was regarded as both right as well as expedient that their desire to keep themselves informed of the measures of the Government needed to be satisfied.

In 1884 the representatives urged that the Revenue Code might be referred to them for opinion and that it might be passed only after their views were obtained. In a subsequent year they suggested that a meeting for the nomination of the members might be held one month before the Dasara, and that the names of the representatives chosen together with the subjects to be discussed might be published in the official Gazette. They also sought

permission for access to any Government records they needed for information before they came to the Assembly. Two other suggestions which they made although they proved to be not feasible in the then existing state of things, still bore testimony to their anxiety for securing due and prompt attention to such matters as could not be disposed of at the Dasara meeting itself. One suggestion was that a Standing Committee should be appointed to attend to all subjects the settlement of which was put off for reference to heads of departments, and the other was to see that no delay occurred in early consideration being given to the subjects postponed. Finding that sometimes the orders issued by the Government were based on an imperfect acquaintance of the wants of the people, the representatives made a bold suggestion in 1888 that all circulars issued by the Government might as a rule, be previously discussed by the Assembly. The suggestion was however found impracticable as it necessitated the continuance of the sitting of the Assembly during the entire year. But they so far succeeded as to obtain a promise from the Dewan that the orders of each year or for that matter any order of Government might be discussed during the annual meetings freely and that the Government would gladly consider their opinions and accept all reasonable amendments proposed. In the same year the members from Kadur proposed that a proposition recommended by a majority of the representatives might be at once passed. The Dewan in reply regretted that though in theory it was a fair proposal, still he could not see his way as matters stood then to grant their wishes as some of the proposals might affect Imperial policy or sanctioned principles of administration. But he assured them that every deference possible would be paid to their wishes. Prior to 1887 the Amildar used to send a written order from the taluk office to each representative directing him to attend the Assembly at Mysore. But the representatives now considered that an order from the Amildar was inconsistent with their dignity as members of the Representative Assembly. It was thenceforth prescribed that the members should be invited by means of letters from the Deputy Commissioners instead of by Takeeds or orders from Amildars.

An objection taken by the representatives in 1889 affords an explanation as to why salaried officers of Government were subsequently declared ineligible either to vote for or sit in the Representative Assembly. Raghavachar, Sheristadar of the Bangalore Deputy Commissioner's office and a municipal councillor for the city of Bangalore, was chosen as a delegate to the Representative Assembly on behalf of the Bangalore Municipality and the opinion was now expressed that it was unlikely that a Government servant could do justice to his position as a member of the Assembly while remaining as a salaried officer of Government. The Dewan could not interfere with the discretion of the Municipality at the time. But subsequently an order was issued excluding Government servants from seeking nomination to the Assembly. It was represented that the annual address did not contain the details of receipts and disbursements and the Dewan agreed to supply the members with the detailed budget for their information.

The Survey and Settlement introduced into some taluks was regarded by the representatives as tending to the impoverishment of the ryot and to the general deterioration of the country and strong protests were made. The persistence which they showed in agitating for a reduction of the assessment of arecanut gardens in the Malnad parts of the State led to an acknowledgment on the part of the Government of the justice of their agitation and to the appointment of a special officer for purposes of investigation. A simpler procedure was desired to be prescribed for the grant of loans under the Land Improvement Regulation and the Regulation passed in 1890 satisfied the wishes of the representatives in this respect. The representatives also brought to light many of the anomalies which existed in the administration. It was an anomaly, for instance, that the assessment on lands under the control of the rain-fed tanks were higher than on lands irrigated by river channels. In the matter of Darkhasths and Razeenamas, i.e., applications for lands and for their relinquishment, it was pointed out that the ryots were required by the taluk authorities to get applications for new lands written by the Sanbo Des of the village.

in which the lands happened to be and also to get all relinquishments certified by him. The Dewan regretted that that practice should have been still adhered to by the taluk officials and issued instructions to at once discontinue the same.

There were several other matters also which were brought forward by the members for the consideration of Government. The taluk authorities, it was stated, directed criminal prosecution for felling trees of the unreserved kind standing on the margin of a ryot's field and belonging to him. One of the forest rules directed the ryot not to cut for manure such branches of the jungle trees as were thicker than an inch in girth. But when inadvertently they did so, where accurate measurements were not possible, they were exposed to criminal prosecution. Regarding trees that could be felled for fuel, the Inspector-General of Forests had published a list enumerating 33 kinds of trees, all conserved against felling and the ryots could only fell trees other than those enumerated. The jungles in some places contained no other trees fit for fuel and the restriction had practically closed the jungles against obtaining any fuel supply. A kind of duty known as Kan-Khist was continued to be paid by the ryots of Koppa, although its abolition had been notified by Bowring when he was Chief Commissioner. In matters relating to the police and to judicial courts, the representatives were very explicit and expressed the opinion that the cost of civil litigation was very heavy and that the delay that generally took place in the disposal of suits was unusually long. The conveniences that were likely to be created by the establishment of Village Panchayet Courts or arbitration tribunals as well as the introduction of the Jury System were also suggested. The anomaly of combining police, magisterial and revenue functions in one and the same officer did not escape the notice of the Assembly. Loud complaints were made against the Arms Act, especially by the representatives of the Malnad where wild animals abounded. The depredations caused by these animals were very damaging and in the harvest season when the arms were most needed, they were seized by the police and taken away to taluk office and not returned till a renewed licence was obtained

and that meant considerable delay. The prohibition of the slaughter of cows, the improvement of industries, the amelioration of the condition of Lambanies, Korachars and other wandering gangs, the improvement of primary education, the introduction of technical instruction, the extension of female education, the encouragement of Mahomedan youths by means of scholarships to seek collegiate education, the institution of vernacular examinations—these and numerous other subjects engaged the attention of the representatives and were placed before Government at their annual meetings.

The members of the Assembly were proud of the offer by the Maharaja of a military contingent for Imperial defence and were thankful to the Government of India for its acceptance.

## **CHAPTER XX.**

### **Chamaraja Wodeyar X—1881—1894.**

#### **Tours of the Maharaja—His last days.**

Chamaraja Wodeyar's first tour after he assumed power was made to Madras. Lord Ripon the Viceroy was to have visited Mysore in February 1884. But on account of the prevalence of cholera there, the visit did not take place. Lord Ripon was a very popular Viceroy and it was during his time that Chamaraja Wodeyar had been invested with power and the State restored to his rule. The Maharaja considering that it was but right on his part to make the personal acquaintance of Lord Ripon before he left India, proceeded to Madras and bade farewell to the out-going Viceroy.

In 1887 the Maharaja undertook another tour. On the 16th December of that year His Highness started on a tour to Northern India and halted at Bombay for ten days. Here he acquainted himself with the working of all the public institutions. The next important place he visited during this tour was Calcutta, where he returned the visit of the Earl of Dufferin who had visited the Mysore State in the previous year. General Roberts (afterwards Lord) who was the Commander-in-chief of the Indian army at the time gave a garden party in honour of the Maharaja. On the return journey His Highness paid visits to the Native States of Jeypore and Jodhpur, and while at Bombay he paid a visit to the Duke of Connaught who was then in command of the army.

In December 1892 the Maharaja again visited Calcutta travelling from Madras to that place by sea and returned the visit of Lord Lansdowne. In 1893 His Highness stayed for two months at Bombay and met Lord Elgin when he was on his way to Calcutta to assume the viceroyalty from Lord Lansdowne.

His Highness also toured on more than one occasion in various parts of the State and acquainted himself personally not only with the conditions of the country but also with the wants of his subjects,



These visits enabled His Highness to introduce various improvements both in his capital as well as in other places.

Chamaraja Wodeyar's last tour was undertaken in December 1894. His Highness left his capital on the 9th of that month with the Maharani and the children and a large retinue and passing through Poona, Allahabad and other places, finally reached Calcutta and on the 21st of that month visited the Viceroy Lord Elgin. On the 23rd His Highness had an attack of fever and on the 26th his illness was regarded as serious. On the 27th one of the Calcutta doctors was called in for consultation who along with Dr. Benson the Durbar Surgeon examined the royal patient and discovered that the disease from which His Highness was suffering was the insidious throat-disease Diphtheria. The malady was a serious one and all remedies to check its course were of no avail and the Maharaja passed away on the morning of the 28th surrounded by the members of his family, a number of State officials and a large number of followers.

The Dewan Sir K. Seshadri Iyer immediately communicated the sad news of the Maharaja's death to the Foreign Secretary, Sir William Cunningham, who in the days of the British Commission had served in Mysore as Secretary to the Chief Commissioner and had known the Maharaja from his boyhood. Lord Elgin was shocked by the news when it was conveyed to him and immediately issued instructions for postponing a visit to him of the Maharaja of Kapurthala fixed for that day. The Foreign Secretary and an aid-de-camp Captain Pollen were immediately deputed to convey the condolences of the Viceroy to the members of the bereaved family and, needless to say, they found the Maharani and the children overwhelmed with sorrow.

It was at first proposed that the Maharaja's body should be taken to Benares for cremation, but on the advice of Gurudas Banerji, Judge of the Calcutta High Court, it was settled that the cremation was to be at Kalighat on the banks of the Ganges. Various preparations had to be made and it was nearly six o'clock in the evening by the time the funeral cortege reached Kalighat.

The Foreign Secretary and Captain Pollen accompanied the procession as well as the Dewan and an aid-de-camp of the Maharaja of Kapurthala. On either side of all the roads on which the funeral procession passed, crowds of people were assembled expressing the greatest sorrow for the sudden and untimely death of the Maharaja whom they had seen only two years before in radiant health. At Kalighat the last funeral rites were performed by the deceased Maharaja's brother-in-law Bakshi Basappaji Urs on behalf of the two sons Princes Krishnaraja Wodeyar and Narasimharaja Wodeyar who were both of tender years.

The next day a message reached the Maharani from the Viceroy that the eldest son Krishnaraja Wodeyar was recognised as successor to the deceased Maharaja and that till the form of administration was settled, the Dewan Sir Seshadri Iyer was to carry on the daily administration of the State with the advice of the British Resident and as far as possible in consultation with the Maharani's wishes. On the 30th December the Maharani and the children with all the retinue left Calcutta, the Foreign Secretary and Captain Pollen taking leave of them at the Railway-Station.

In the meanwhile, Colonel Henderson the British Resident who had been immediately apprised by the Foreign Secretary of the sad event that had taken place, sent instructions by wire from Bangalore to the Controller of the Palace at Mysore to place seals on the doors of all the important apartments in the Palace and reached Mysore the next day with T. R. A. Thumboo Chetty who was then in temporary charge of the Dewan's duties. The Resident in announcing to the people of Mysore who had assembled in the Palace Square the sad intelligence of the Maharaja's death spoke as follows:—"It is with feelings of the profoundest sorrow that I have to communicate formally to those assembled here that the distressing intelligence has been received by telegram of the sudden and untimely death of His Highness the Maharaja Chamarajendra Wodeyar Bahadur, Knight Grand Commander of the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, which melancholy event took place at Calcutta yesterday at 7 a.m. This is not a suitable occasion for the expression of the sorrow which these

grievous tidings must cause not only in Mysore but throughout all India and even beyond wherever the name of your beloved sovereign is known. I am indeed come among you accompanied by my friend Mr. Thumboo Chetty, the Senior Member of the Council who has been left in temporary charge of the administration of the country, to exhort to you to exercise for the present all possible self-control in the expression of those very natural emotions called forth by this grievous intelligence and to urge all those present, relatives of His Highness and the civil and military officers of the State, to do their best to allay any excitement or apprehension that may possibly be caused by the news of the melancholy event. You are aware that the succession to the administration has been settled by the 3rd Article of the Instrument of Transfer and in due course the formal recognition of His Excellency the Viceroy and the Governor-General to the succession as therein provided will be received and the necessary arrangements made after the Subaswikaram ceremony. You must also be aware that under the same Instrument arrangements for the administration of the country have been definitely laid down, so that all apprehensions of any change in the policy of the Government of India towards Mysore may be at once dismissed as baseless. The deep interest ever shown by the Government of India in the welfare of Mysore and the friendly relations that ever existed with the illustrious Ruler whose loss we have now occasion to deplore are a sufficient guarantee that the best possible arrangements will be made for the administration of the country and for the welfare of all classes of the people."

There was great mourning throughout the State and all public offices and courts were closed for eight days. Thirty-two minute guns were fired in Bangalore and Mysore and all flags kept at half-mast till the ceremony on the twelfth day was completed.

The Maharani and the children reached Mysore on the 3rd January 1895 and at once drove to the Palace from the Railway-Station in the midst of crowds of people whose grief expressed itself in loud lamentations. Messages and letters of condolence reached the bereaved family from all parts of India as well as from outside

where His Highness' reputation as a beneficent ruler had reached. A message was also received from the Queen-Empress expressing her sorrow for the bereavement. On the 5th of the same month the inhabitants of Mysore presented through the Dewan a written representation to the Maharani expressing their sorrow for the unexpected death of their ruler and wishing that Her Highness during the minority of her young son should fill the place of the departed Maharaja and rule them till the minority terminated.

Chamaraja Wodeyar left five children surviving him at the time of his death—three daughters and two sons ranging from 14 to 6 years. The present Maharaja was only 10 years old at the time and the present Yuvaraja Narasimharaja Wodeyar only six.

In his address to the Representative Assembly that met in October 1895 the Dewan Sir K. Seshadri Iyer referred in these terms to the loss the country had sustained by the death of Chamaraja Wodeyar: "Our late sovereign passed away in the prime of life and in the midst of a most beneficent career. His untimely death was lamented as a great national misfortune throughout India; it evoked feelings of widespread sympathy in England; it was deplored as an imperial loss by the British Government. For us, his subjects, whose good always occupied the foremost place in his heart, it is impossible to cease to bemoan our great loss. Time cannot assuage our sorrow. The many monuments of his rule will ever remind us of the nobility of his character and the beneficence of his aims."

Later, to perpetuate the memory of Chamaraja Wodeyar an equestrian statue by Onslow Ford was placed in the Lal Bagh at Bangalore. A marble statue was also placed subsequently before the north-gate of the fort at Mysore and a similar one in the Cubbon Park at Bangalore. At the place of cremation in Calcutta a *brindavan* has been erected and a *dharmasala* also established, where gifts of grain are given to the people daily.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### The Maharani—Regent.

**Maharani appointed Regent—Reformed State Council—Sir Seshadri Iyer continued as Dewan—Visits of Lord Elgin and Lord Curzon.**

The Proclamation read by the British Resident Col. Henderson did not quite relieve the anxiety of the people of Mysore as to the future of their State during the minority of their young Maharaja. There was an eager wish, as we have already seen, on the part of the people that the Maharani should for the time being take the place of the deceased ruler on behalf of her son. It took, however, some time for the Government of India to announce definitely the *ad interim* arrangements made for the administration of the country and to give relief to the minds of the people. The coronation of the young Maharaja was fixed for the 1st February following at which Col. Henderson the British Resident was present. On this occasion a Khareetha addressed by the Viceroy to the young Maharaja was read which contained the announcement that Her Highness the Maharani Kempananjammani Avaru had been appointed as Regent to carry on the administration during the minority of her son,—an announcement which was hailed with visible joy by all who were present at the time and accepted with sincere rejoicings everywhere by the people of the State.

It is only on rare occasions that women in India are called on to face situations such as the one that arose in Mysore. We have seen how Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni successfully fulfilled all the expectations formed of her during the minority of Krishnaraja Wodeyar III. Maharani Kempananjammani equally rose to the occasion to worthily fill the gap which had been caused by the untimely and unexpected demise of her illustrious consort, away from his home and surroundings in the distant city of Calcutta. The Maharani though thus suddenly bereft of her beloved partner in life was fortunately found to possess an extraordinary degree of mental courage, and it is stated that when Sir William Cunningham,

the Foreign Secretary, offered condolences on behalf of the Government of India, Her Highness judiciously replied that it appeared to her as if the Maharaja had proceeded to Calcutta to personally entrust his family and his State to the special care of the Paramount Power. In October 1895, when Sir K. Seshadri Iyer in his address to the Representative Assembly gave expression to the sentiment that in their great affliction they had the consolation to know that the illustrious consort of their departed Maharaja was with them to guide and to encourage them in the task of administration, and that stricken with sorrow though she was, yet Her Highness had with exemplary self-denial placed the prestige of her great name, her rare intelligence and her great heart at the disposal of her loving subjects by consenting to preside over the administration of the country as Regent of the State, that sentiment found a ready echo in the hearts of all present on the occasion. An old and respectable Mahomedan representative member who was present at the time was overheard to remark: "Hakdarka huk hai; Usme Kya farrak"—it was but the claimant's right and there was no departure there."

Nevertheless, it must be confessed that here and there some misgivings were felt as to the wisdom of placing the Maharani in the void caused by the death of her distinguished husband. To her own subjects, the Maharani was known as the worthy spouse of their beloved sovereign and the mother of a happy group of children. To the outside world, she was known as an enlightened lady who had lent the weight of her name to an institution at Mysore for the education of girls. The Government of India knew her as the holder of the Imperial Order of the Crown of India which had been conferred on Her Highness in 1893. Outside the Palace precincts these items constituted the sum-total of knowledge regarding the new Regent and even this knowledge was mostly based on report inasmuch as only very few who could judge of her merits had the privilege of knowing her by sight. Fortunately the result proved that these misgivings were baseless and it was the good fortune of Mysore to find in the Maharani a ruler who possessed much tact and intelligence.

A few days after the installation of the young Maharaja, the new administration assumed its full form. Sir K. Seshadri Iyer was continued as Dewan and to assist him and the Maharani-Regent an Executive Council of three whole-time members was formed with T. R. A. Thumboo Chetty, P. N. Krishna Murthi who was a Judge of the Chief Court and Abdul Rahaman who was a Deputy Commissioner. During Chamaraja Wodeyar's reign although there existed a council, it had played no effective part in the administration of the State. So far back as April 1886 Thumboo Chetty had drawn the attention of Sir Seshadri Iyer to the need of improving the constitution of the Council so as to make it really a useful institution. But the latter had contented himself by replying that the real difficulty was about finding the men. His own words were:—"The ministry in your memo must be an Executive Council. I shall only be delighted to have such a Council. Where are the men? Never mind the cost which really is only a subordinate matter....."

The Government of India however, after Chamaraja Wodeyar's death, considered that there was need for a strong Council and the rules of business of the re-constituted Council were accordingly revised. The subjects which were to be laid before the Council were more precisely defined than in the notification issued in 1881. The list of subjects contained in that notification was found so vague as possibly to afford opportunities to a member to unduly hamper the Dewan by pressing for submission to the Council all kinds of insignificant questions and hence the subjects were more exactly defined. In the revised list of subjects were also now included all questions relating to the appointment of officers to the upper grades of the Civil Service in all its branches, which the Government of India considered, should be matters for the consideration of the whole Council. The Dewan-in-Council was to distribute the work of the State by departments between himself and the three councillors. The member in charge of a department was competent to dispose of all ordinary work of that department and to issue orders in the name of the Government, referring however matters of doubt, delicacy or importance to the Dewan and it was within the sphere of the Dewan to determine whether

final orders could be issued or not without reference to the Council as a whole. It was at all times open to the Dewan to refer any matter to the Council. The decisions of the Dewan-in-Council were to be carried into effect where there was no difference of opinion, but where the Dewan did not agree in any opinion with the majority of the Council, power was given to him to refer the matter to the Regent for her orders. It was also made incumbent on the Dewan to refer to the Resident all matters which had to go up to the Government of India. The Dewan also possessed the right to call for the production of any public records from any of the departments assigned to a member of the Council for reconsideration in the Council.

The Palace arrangements and the Civil List expenditure were entirely placed in the hands of the Maharani-Regent. The purdah which according to custom Her Highness observed proved no bar to her desire to acquaint herself with the wants and wishes of her subjects. Her Highness readily granted interviews to the British Resident, to her ministers and to the leading officers of the State and invited them to discuss with her important questions that concerned the prosperity of the country.

Lord and Lady Elgin paid a visit to the country in November 1895 and so did Lord and Lady Curzon in November 1900.



## **CHAPTER XXII.**

### **The Maharani—Regent.**

**Some useful measures introduced—Construction of the Marikanave Reservoir—Re-construction of the Palace destroyed by fire—First appearance of Plague—The Kaveri Electric Power Scheme—Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria—Boer War—Military Transport Corps—Census of 1901—Sir Seshadri Iyer's retirement and death in 1901—Sir P. N. Krishna Murti appointed Dewan.**

Early in the period of the Regency, considerable relief was given to the supari garden-owners of the Malnad by a reduction in the annual assessment imposed on the lands on which the trees stood, the rates in the four taluks of Sorab, Sagar, Nagar and Koppa being assimilated to those of Thirthahalli which had been accepted as equitable. The relief amounted to 22 per cent of the tax which had been imposed. The garden-owners with scarcely an exception when consulted, preferred a reduction in the land-tax to the abolition of the Sayer duty, the incidence of the latter being regulated by the actual production of the year and they did not also look with favour upon a system of tree-tax, though under such a system the land-tax would have been reduced to the ordinary rice rates and the Sayer abolished altogether.

A number of other useful measures introduced during the Regency may also be referred to. A Department of Geology had been established during the late reign in October 1894 and R. Bruce Foote, retired Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India, placed in charge of it. Shortly after, the geological survey was undertaken and it brought to light the great iron ores forming the upper part of the Dharwar system in the Bababudan hills west of Kadur. In the year 1897-98 a Mining Regulation was passed and rules were framed more or less similar to those in force in England, New South Wales, the Transval and other countries. There was a remarkable development of the Gold Mining industry during this period. The population of the Kolar Gold Fields which

in 1891 was only 7085 rose to 38,204 in 1901. The value of gold extracted from the commencement of the industry was over £16 millions, out of which the value of the quantity produced during the period of the Regency was a little over £12½ millions. The Royalty received during the eight years of the Regency was more than Rs. 91 lakhs. As more water was required to treat the ore, the Bethamangala tank was improved at a cost of Rs. 11 lakhs and its water was allowed to be used for gold mining purposes. In December 1901 the Hon'ble Mark Napier was deputed by Messrs. Taylor & Sons, London, as a delegate on behalf of the Kolar Mining Companies and the long-pending question of the renewal of the leases was settled. An agreement was arrived at between the Mysore Government and the leading Companies, allowing the latter to renew the leases for a further period of 30 years from 1910 on condition of their paying 5 per cent Royalty on the gross output, together with 2½ per cent on all dividends declared by the Companies.

In 1898-99 a beginning was made for the establishment of an Agricultural Department by the appointment of an Agricultural Chemist for the purpose of a systematic examination of soils in all parts of the State, the ascertainment of the appropriate manures required for particular soils, the adoption of measures for the removal of insects and other pests, the introduction of improved methods of cultivation generally, the revival of decaying industries and other allied purposes.

Two important changes under Excise were introduced in 1897. The first was the increase of the retail price of arrack per gallon from Rs. 5-5-0 to Rs. 6-6-0. This increase was expected to exercise a moderating, salutary effect upon the consumer without inflicting any undue hardship. The other change introduced was the system of licences for tapping trees for toddy and the allotment of specific groves for specific shops which led to the augmentation of the toddy revenue without any increase in consumption.

With regard to educational improvements, the First in Arts classes affiliated to the Madras University were opened in the

Maharani's Girls' School in 1897. In 1900 a regular college department was formed and the name of the school was altered to that of the Maharani's College in 1901. Spacious and well-ventilated buildings were constructed for hostels for students both at Bangalore and Mysore. In other places also homes for students were established in rented or Government buildings. A liberal grant and a large extent of land were offered for the location of the Indian Institute of Science proposed to be established by J. N. Tata in Bangalore. In 1896 a Regulation was enacted for the appointment of a special tribunal to settle the claims of certain descendants of Brijlal Das to whom an award had been made during the days of the British Commission for some money due to him from Krishnaraja Wodeyar III. Brijlal, however, had refused the sum granted in the award claiming a higher amount. The special court however found that none of the applicants were the legal heirs of the deceased creditor entitled to receive the sum awarded, namely, Rs. 5,67,338-15-1. The Maharani-Regent however, true to the traditions of her family decided to allot the amount for charitable purposes under the designation of 'Damodar Das Charities.' The whole of this amount was invested in Government of India  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent securities and it was decided that four-fifths of the income from the investment was to be devoted to the grant of scholarships to enable selected candidates to prosecute post-graduate studies or researches of an advanced scientific or technical character in any university or other institution in India or in any foreign country. The remaining one-fifth of the annual income from the fund was decided to be spent in granting scholarships to the members of the Guzerati community to which Damodar Das belonged.

The Regulation relating to Local Boards which, as we have seen, was first published in 1883 and was pending from that year on account of prolonged discussions between the Government of India and the Government of Mysore was finally passed into law in 1901.

Among the notable public works undertaken or completed during the Regency were the construction of the Marikanave

Reservoir, the re-construction of a part of the Mysore Palace, and the opening in December 1899 of a railway line from Birur to Shimoga connecting the latter place with the Bangalore-Harihar railway line. The construction of the great Marikanave Reservoir in the arid district of Chitaldrug about which there had been controversial opinions from the days of Sir Mark Cubbon, was finally undertaken in the year 1897-98 and was successfully completed in 1906, four years later after Krishnaraja Wodeyar's accession to power and the project cost in all about Rs. 39 lakhs.

The re-construction of a part of the Palace in the Mysore fort became necessary in 1897. In the early part of that year, some days after the celebration of the marriage of the eldest princess Jayalakshmi Ammanni, an accident occurred which caused for the time being some gloom among those who witnessed it. On account of the folly of a maid-servant, the marriage pandal erected in the quadrangle of the Palace caught fire and one-fifth of the old building was destroyed including the Sejje and the three storeys rising above it up to the gold pinnacles, the Sanskrit Library, the armoury, the music-room and the Balakhana. Fortunately the occurrence was turned to advantage and it proved a veritable blessing in disguise, as it tended to some extent to encourage and conserve the declining sculpture of India. A new design prepared by an English architect and following at the special desire of the Maharani-Regent the general outline of the old building as constructed in the days of Purnaiya was adopted. A large number of masons and other workmen were collected from all parts of India. The new building was constructed mostly of stone and iron materials and it came as a revelation at the time that excellent stones of all kinds were procurable in abundance from quarries in the Mysore State itself. The quarry at a place called Turuvekere furnished a unique kind of trap which lent itself to the finest and most elaborate carvings and kept very sharp edges. The masons from Trichnopoly, Madras and other districts from Southern India were at first able to work only with pointed chisels but they learnt from their brethren of Kolhapur, Jeypore and other places in Northern India to work with sharp-edged, wedge-shaped tools and were able to do exquisite carving.

The work was finally completed in the year 1912, ten years after the close of the Regency. The new structure further improved subsequently by the present Maharaja now stands in the midst of clean surroundings and artistically laid out gardens attracting the admiration of visitors.

One sad occurrence which in common with other parts of India beclouded Mysore in this period was the outbreak of the plague which defied all human efforts put forward for its suppression. This fell disease prior to its appearance in the Mysore State had broken out and was increasing in virulence at Hubli in the Dharwar district of the Bombay Presidency, a populous town only 80 miles from the Mysore frontier. It was, therefore, deemed essential that all possible precautions should be taken to prevent its entry into Mysore. The Epidemic Diseases Regulation passed in 1897 armed the Government with extensive powers to this end. Under this enactment, rules were framed from time to time for meeting the special exigencies of the situation as they arose and various precautionary measures were adopted such as the establishment of railway and frontier inspection station and outposts, the examination of passengers by rail and road, and the establishment of temporary plague hospitals and segregation and health camps. Notwithstanding all these precautionary measures, plague first made its appearance in the Bangalore City on the 12th August 1898 and from there it spread with increasing virulence in every direction in the districts of Bangalore, Mysore, Kolar and Tumkur. The severity of the epidemic reached its height in the Bangalore City in the months of October and November, during each of which months more than 1000 persons fell victims to it. Altogether it was calculated that in the first year of this outbreak, there were nearly 15,000 attacks and more than 12,000 deaths. Vigorous measures were adopted by Government to check the spread of the disease by making provision for the treatment of the disease in special hospitals. Accommodation was provided in camps for contacts and persons living in infected houses. Infected persons and houses were subjected to systematic disinfection. Plague corpses were removed at the expense of the State to the burial or

burning grounds allotted for the purpose. Every encouragement was afforded for inoculation. A large number of houses condemned as unfit for habitation were demolished in the Bangalore City after payment of compensation, and congested portions opened out by the removal of many more. Special attention was paid to sanitation both in cities and in villages. Two large extensions Basavangudi and Malleswaram covering an area of 1000 acres and capable of providing accommodation for 50,000 persons were laid out in the Bangalore City. A large number of temporary health camps was also established. Free issues of timber and bamboos were made to the poorer classes to enable them to camp out. Relief works for the indigent people were started wherever necessary. Advances to Government servants of a year's pay was sanctioned in the Bangalore City to enable them to build houses in the new extensions and of three months' pay in certain infected taluks for putting up sheds. Yet this dire disease, as Lord Curzon expressed, baffled all attempts to eradicate it, defying analysis, defeating the utmost efforts of medical skill and administrative energy, inscrutable in its origin, merciless in its ravages, sweeping off very often thousands in a day and tens of thousands in a week. In Mysore it continued its havoc in all parts of the State and in the last four years of the Regency period from the outbreak of the disease 61,000 persons were attacked, of whom nearly 47,000 perished. The magnitude of this calamity is not to be measured by its numbers alone. Its ravages led to the unsettlement of the families of these victims and left numerous young children without proper guardians.

A work which was planned and completed during the period of the Regency was the great Kaveri Electric Power scheme. Prior to 1899 the possibility of generating electric power by the utilisation of the Kaveri Falls at Sivasamudram had been discussed. In 1894 Edmund Carrington, an electrical engineer, had applied for a concession of the water power at the Falls. He was connected with Mr. Holmes of Madras, one of the pioneers of electric lighting in India. These gentlemen and Col. Henderson the then British Resident in Mysore who took a keen interest in the scheme

recognised the possibility of transmitting electric power to long distances. The Mysore Government considered it advisable to investigate the practicability of generating power at the Falls and obtained the loan from the Madras Government of the services of Col. Pennyquick, R.E., then Chief Engineer at Madras, for the purpose. In his report he took a most favourable view of the capabilities of the Falls. In June 1899 Captain A. J. De Lotbiniere, R.E., Deputy Chief Engineer of Mysore, after studying the account of the installation at Niagara Falls conceived the idea of working the machinery at the Kolar Gold Mines with electricity generated by the power of the Kaveri Falls. The scheme received the support of Sir K. Seshadri Iyer and was approved by the Maharani. By August 1900 the agreements with the Mining Companies were formally ratified and signed and contracts were given to the General Electric Company of New York and Messrs. Escher Wyss & Co., Zurich, for the supply and erection of electric and hydraulic plant respectively, all details having been scrutinised by a committee of experts in London. In connection with the preliminary works required at Sivasamudram before the arrival of the machinery, a temporary camp was opened at a place called Rottikatte,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the works, and ground was broken by beginning the excavation on the 10th of August 1900 of the supply channels, a memorable day, it may be said, in the industrial history of the whole of India. All the labour required for the works had necessarily to be imported on account of the thinly populated surroundings of Sivasamudram. During the last quarter of 1900 and the first six months of 1901 the number of labourers did not fall short of 5000. The first party of the General Electric Company's engineers and employees arrived in India in December 1900, the remainder following at intervals during 1901 as their services were required. The first shipment of line material arrived at Marmugao in January 1901 and the final survey of the line, jungle clearing and other preliminary operations through the country to be traversed, in many parts very rugged and difficult, were at once commenced. The whole of the plant for generation, transmission and distribution, together with the buildings required for the purpose, was ready in June 1902 and on the 30th of that

month electric power was for the first time transmitted to the Gold Fields, the switch being operated by Mrs. Robertson, wife of the British Resident. The agreement with the Mining Companies at this time was for a supply of 4000 horse power for a period of ten years. The cost of the scheme was about Rs. 50 lakhs. Thus one of the greatest and most recent developments of modern science was successfully carried out in Mysore and to the Maharani-Regent and her advisers as well as to Captain Lotbiniere belonged the credit of carrying out this bold enterprise.

The Diamond Jubilee of the reign of Queen-Empress Victoria celebrated on the 21st and 22nd June 1897 afforded an occasion for rejoicings throughout the State and an opportunity to the Maharani-Regent to once more give expression to the traditional loyalty and grateful devotion of both the Ruling Family and the people of Mysore to the British throne. The celebration at Bangalore was conducted by Her Highness in person. In commemoration of the event, the Maharani-Regent laid the foundation-stone of a hospital known as the Victoria Hospital on the day of the Jubilee and a building was constructed at a cost of about Rs. 4 lakhs which was opened to the public by Lord Curzon towards the end of 1900. The building is a handsome, two-storied one with abundant accommodation and equipped with the most modern appliances.

In 1901-02 the Boer War was concluded. In this connection, Mysore had the honour and satisfaction of several of its residents joining the famous Lumsden's Horse. More than 100 horses were supplied for mounting this corps and four non-commissioned native officers with some syces accompanied these horses.

Another obligation towards strengthening the bond of Imperial friendship cheerfully undertaken during this period was the formation of a Transport Corps as a complement to the regiment of Imperial Service Lancers which had been organised during the time of Chamaraja Wodeyar for the purpose of Imperial defence. From the days of the treaty of Seringapatam in 1799 about 200 bullocks



of the Amrut Mahal breed used to be supplied yearly for British bullock batteries. But after the Boer War as all batteries were ordered to be horsed, the British Government was no longer in need of the Mysore bullocks. The full strength of the corps now formed was 300 carts and 700 ponies. As regards the cadre of the corps, it was organised as closely as possible on the cadre of the transport trains in the British service.

Queen Victoria died in the beginning of the year 1901 after a long reign of 64 years. The Dewan referred to this occurrence in his speech to the Representative Assembly in 1901 as an event which affected the people of Mysore not merely in common with the teeming millions of the British Empire but with the whole mankind over whose hearts the good queen had firmly established her dominion by her personal virtues as she had done over those of her own subjects by the beneficent exercise of her sovereign power. The accession of the Prince of Wales to the throne as Edward VII was at the same time welcomed.

In 1901 the usual decennial census was taken and it was found that the population had increased notwithstanding the devastations of plague by about 12 per cent, the density per square mile rising from 168 to 188. Of girls less than 10 years old, fewer were found married and fewer widowed than in 1891 ; the actual figures were—7130 girls under the age of 10 against 18,072 at the census of 1891, due no doubt mostly to the restrictions placed on such marriages by the Infant Marriage Regulation passed some years earlier. Similarly, against 705 married boys below 10 years of age in 1891 there were only 235 such in 1901. As regards education, the census standard of literacy was low being limited only to reading and writing. About 5 per cent of the entire population were found to be literate, consisting of 8.8 per cent of the males and 0.6 per cent of the females.

The area under cultivation increased by more than two and a half lakhs of acres. In June 1900 by which time it was found that out of a total area of the State 1,74,55,539 acres, the extent of

culturable land was 69,60,442 acres. There were 65,03,556 acres under cultivation at the end of the year made up as follows :—

Wet	...	...	7,73,677	acres assessed at Rs. 31,34,825.
Dry	...	...	53,17,508	" " " 41,65,900.
Garden	...	...	2,43,611	" " " 12,93,232.
Coffee	...	...	1,65,691	" " " 1,80,902.
Cinchona and Cardamom	{	...	...	3069 " " " 1912.
		...	...	
Total	...	...	65,03,556	acres assessed at Rs. 87,76,771.

The revenues of the State showed a progressive development from 181 lakhs of rupees in the first year to 189 lakhs in 1901-02, the last year of the Regency. Even after paying the increased Subsidy of Rs. 10½ lakhs per annum to the British Government which became payable from July 1896, the State was able to grant larger allotments than before for education, sanitation, medical relief and other objects which directly benefited the people.

Excepting the personal changes which were inevitable, the provisional Government underwent no alteration during the period of the Regency. Abdul Rahaman having retired in 1895, V. P. Madhava Rao, Inspector-General of Police, was nominated to his place. Madhava Rao was a native of Tanjore and had entered the Mysore Service as a clerk in the office of the Guardian to the late Maharaja Chamaraja Wodeyar when the latter was a minor. Madhava Rao rose to the position of a Member of Council after holding various appointments. In March 1901 Sir K. Seshadri Iyer who had been on long leave on account of ill-health retired but did not survive his retirement for any length of time, having died in September of the same year. He possessed a powerful intellect and a strenuous will, though in warmth of heart he was not the equal of Rangacharlu. During his long period of office, he rendered various useful services to the country of his adoption and achieved distinction as a statesman of Indian repute. Later, a statue was raised and a building known

as the Seshadri Iyer Memorial Hall in the Cubbon Park at Bangalore to commemorate his services was constructed. Sir W. W. Hunter of the Indian Civil Service and the first compiler of the Gazetteer of India at one time characterised Sir Seshadri Iyer as a man who gave his head to Herbert Spencer and his heart to Parabrahma. T. R. A. Thumboo Chetty, the Senior Councillor, who was acting as Dewan in place of Sir Seshadri Iyer while the latter was on leave also retired simultaneously with him after a long and honourable career.

P. N. Krishna Murthi (later Sir) was now appointed Dewan and for the two vacant councillorships C. Srinivasa Iyengar one of the Secretaries to Government and Rao Bahadur C. Madiiah, Deputy Commissioner of Mysore, were appointed. V. P. Madhava Rao now became the Senior Member of Council.

It was fortunate that there were only a few changes among the British Residents. After Col. Henderson left Mysore in February 1895, his place was taken by Sir William Lee-Warner and by Sir Macworth Young for short periods. In December 1896 Col. Donald Robertson, Governor-General's agent, Central India, became the occupant of the Resident's place during the rest of the period of the Regency.

## **CHAPTER XXIII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

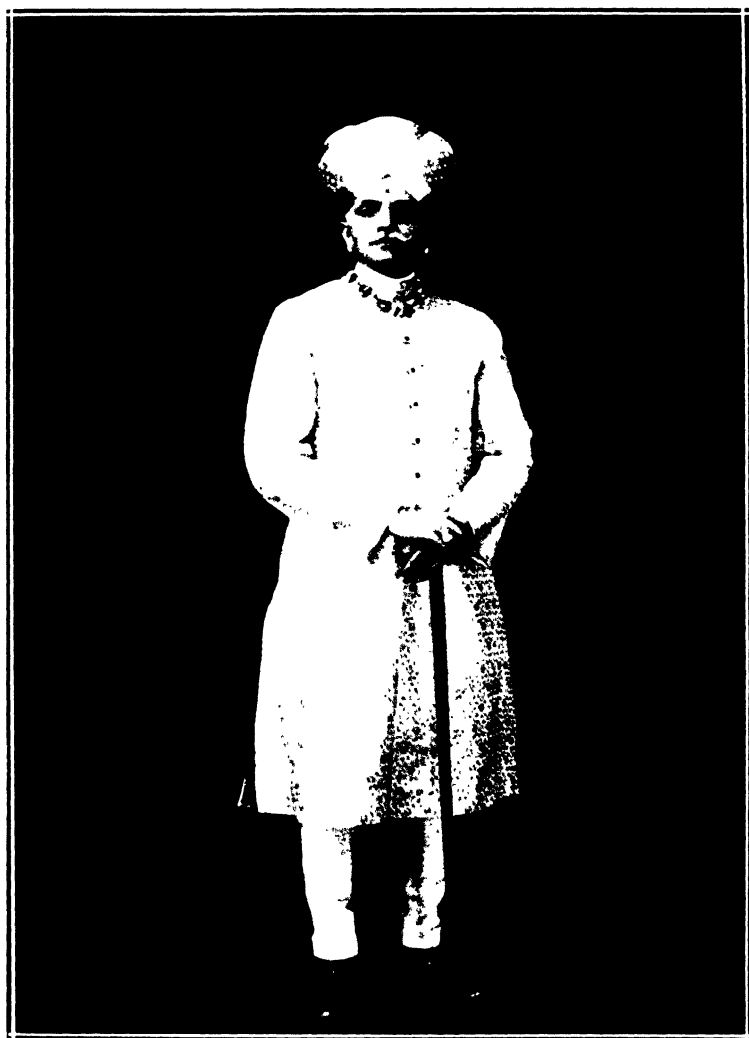
#### **Termination of the Regency—Investiture with power of H. H. Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV—Edward VII's Coronation in England.**

In 1902 the young Maharaja Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV reached the age of 18 years and was considered both by his education and the administrative training he had received quite competent to assume the responsibility of ruling his State. Almost in the first year of her lonely life the Maharani-Regent had readily given her consent to an arrangement by which Mr. S. M. Fraser (afterwards Sir) of the Bombay Civil Service was appointed Tutor and Guardian of the young Maharaja. Before he came to Mysore, he had held a similar position in Kolhapur and had earned a name for having very successfully trained up the ruler of that State. It was considered at the time by a large number of people that it was cruel to separate the son from the mother. Her Highness, however, saw the wisdom of the arrangement and suppressing her natural feelings yielded to the sense of duty she owed to her son. Fortunately Mr. Fraser's tact, conciliatory disposition and abilities were such as to cause no regret on the part of the Maharani for the approval she had given to the arrangement for the education of her son.

Under the guidance of Mr. Fraser, a systematic and sustained effort was made to prepare His Highness for the duties of his exalted office, which was ultimately attended with great success. The curricula of studies were framed with a view to giving the Maharaja an intelligent knowledge both of the theory and practice of government. The reading of modern history and science was combined with a study of the principles of jurisprudence and methods of revenue administration. This book learning was supplemented by extensive tours in every part of the State by which the Maharaja was brought into contact with all classes of officials and gained a first-hand knowledge of the nature and resources of the country which he was to govern. In the last tour made before assuming the government of the State, His Highness







*H. H. Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV, G.C.S.I., G.B.E.*





in several places took the opportunity to visit taluk and other offices to examine the accounts and papers of village officials and to speak to the people by his own mouth and thus was introduced to the practical working of the machinery of the districts. To familiarise himself with legal procedure, His Highness more than once attended the law courts and sat upon the bench with the presiding judges and magistrates. On some occasions His Highness attended the meetings of the State Council and followed the discussions with intelligent appreciation of the points raised. It was the opinion of those responsible at the time for the Maharaja's training that His Highness had made excellent use of the opportunities afforded to him. The Maharaja's health during his minority was uniformly good. He had regular and varied outdoor exercises which developed his physical strength and endurance. His Highness learnt to play tennis and racquets well and was able to acquire proficiency in horsemanship.

The investiture ceremony took place on the 8th August 1902 at Mysore and it was performed by the Viceroy Lord Curzon. A deputation from Mysore consisting of Mr. C. L. S. Russel, first assistant to the British Resident, Bakshi Bassappaji Urs a nobleman of the State and related to the Royal Family and V. P. Madhava Rao, Member of the State Council, welcomed the Viceregal party at Hindupur on behalf of the Maharani-Regent and accompanied the party to Bangalore, arriving there on the 4th August. The Viceroy made a stay of two days at Bangalore. On the afternoon of the first day he drove to the Imperial Service Cavalry and Transport Lines and witnessed some 200 Imperial Service Lancers under the command of Captain Macquiod execute various manœuvres. On the arrival of the Viceroy at the Imperial Service Lines, he was received by Dewan Krishna Murthi and conducted to a position near the saluting flag. After the horses of the entire regiment had lain down on the word of command so as to form covers for their riders in action, the regiment formed mass and the men dismounted and left their horses entirely alone with the rein passed through the girths. Rockets, carbine discharges and other noises were then made to test the training of the horses and except one or two horses which broke away, the remainder kept

perfectly steady and unconcerned. After galloping past and advancing in review order, the Lancers cheered His Excellency. The Viceroy remarked that the display he had seen proved the excellence of the training of the horses and the special attention paid to the matter by Colonel Desaraj Urs and Captain Macquiod. The manœuvres subsequent to special show in connection with the horses reflected great credit, said His Excellency, on the regiment. On the night of the next day, the Viceroy and party attended a reception given by the Dewan P. N. Krishna Murthi at the latter's palatial residence 'Purna Prasada.' On the 6th August the electric works at Sivasamudram were visited and Mysore was reached on the morning of the 7th, where the Viceroy was received with all the ceremonies usual on such occasions.

On Friday the 8th August 1902 a grand durbar was held in the pavilion attached to the Jagan Mohan Palace. The civil and military officers of the Government and others who had been invited for the occasion were in their seats before the arrival of the Viceroy. A deputation consisting of the Dewan and three principal officers of the State waited on His Excellency at 9-15 a.m. for the purpose of conducting him to the durbar hall. His Excellency left his residence at 9-30 a.m. attended by the Private and Military Secretaries and the Under-Secretary in the Foreign Department and was escorted by a wing of a regiment of British cavalry and a battery of Royal Field Artillery. His Highness the Maharaja accompanied by Colonel Donald Robertson the British Resident and four principal nobles and officers of the State received the Viceroy as he alighted from his carriage. A guard of honour furnished by the Royal Warwickshire Regiment with band and colours which had been drawn up outside the durbar hall saluted the Viceroy on arrival. The band played a slow march as the procession approached the door of the durbar hall and at the entrance a second guard of honour of British troops presented arms. A royal salute of 31 guns was fired from the ramparts of the fort and the band played the British National Anthem. All present rose on the entrance of the procession and remained standing till His Excellency the Viceroy took his seat on the dais. The Maharaja

took his seat on the right hand and on the left of the Viceroy were seated the Resident, the Foreign Secretary and other British officers. The other European guests were seated in an other group at some distance apart. On the right of the Maharaja sat the Dewan, the nobles and other native officers and guests in the order of their rank and precedence in different rows. After all were seated, the Foreign Secretary declared the Durbar open.

His Excellency the Viceroy then rose and addressed His Highness the Maharaja in these words:—"Your Highness and Gentlemen—This is the first time since I have been in India that I have been called upon personally to instal a Ruling Chief. It gives me the greatest pleasure that the Chief in whose case I am about to discharge these agreeable functions should be one whose career I have had such close opportunities of watching and for whom I entertain so sincere a regard as the young Maharaja of Mysore. Indeed, I think I may add that I should not have come all the way from Simla at this season of the year had I not felt the keenest personal interest both in this State and in its future Ruler. About the latter I shall have a word to say presently. But first let me explain how it is that the fortunes of the Mysore State occupy such a place in the concern and regard of the Government of India.

"We can never forget that for 50 years this State was under British administration during which time it enjoyed the full benefits of the discipline and method and experience that are associated with the British system. At the end of that period a great experiment was made. The famous Rendition took place and the State was given back to its native rulers. It is interesting to recollect that the statesman who was mainly responsible for that act was the veteran Prime Minister, Lord Salisbury, who only three weeks ago resigned the helm of affairs in England after half a century of unsurpassed service to the State. It was a just and magnanimous act, but it was also, as I have said, a great experiment; for if the result had been failure, then a cruel rebuff would have been administered to the generosity which dictated the proceeding and the cause of Native States and of Native Administration throughout India must have suffered a lasting recoil,

The eyes of every one therefore were directed upon Mysore to see how the venture would result and how far the State would justify the confidence reposed in it. I will not pretend that there have never been shades in the picture or that an unassailable standard has everywhere been maintained. In this world we talk about ideals more often than we realise them. But this I can unhesitatingly say—the State has been well served by the members of its Ruling Family and by faithful and patriotic ministers. The first Dewan Rangacharlu did not long survive the Rendition. But his successor Sir Seshadri Iyer for 18 years wielded an authority that was a reflex of his powerful character and abilities and that left its mark upon every branch of the administration. The late Maharaja whose amiability and excellence of disposition endeared him to all was unfortunately removed by a premature death while still in the prime of life. And since then Sir Seshadri Iyer has died also. Thus the old order has passed away and we stand on the threshold of a new era.

“For nearly eight years there has been a minority during which the Regency has been in the hands of Her Highness the Maharani-Regent assisted by a Dewan and Council and relying upon the firm and constant support of the British Resident. As the head of the Government of India, I have pleasure in stating that the smooth progress of events during the minority has been largely due to the unfailing tact and discretion of Her Highness. If I may be allowed to say so, she has set an example of public and domestic virtue which has been of equal value to her people and to her family and which has earned for her the admiration and respect of all. It gives me pleasure to announce that in recognition of these services I had submitted to His Majesty the King-Emperor the request that he would allow Her Highness the salute of 19 guns to be continued to her for life and that His Majesty has gladly consented to bestow upon Her Highness this exceptional mark of favour. It is our hope now that she is retiring from the responsible position which she has so long and successfully filled that she may observe the fruits of her sagacious example and may meet with the rewards of her motherly devotion in the conduct and career of her son,

"I am thus brought to the circumstances that have led up to the ceremony of to-day. The young Maharaja whom I am about to instal has recently attained his eighteenth birthday. He has passed through a minority of nearly eight years. They have not been idle or vapid years spent in enjoyment or dissipated in idleness. They have been years of careful preparation for the duties that lie before him and of laborious training for his exalted state. It is no light thing to assume the charge of 5,000,000 of people and it is no perfunctory training that is required for such a task. In Mr. Fraser we were fortunate enough to discover a Tutor and Governor thoroughly alive to the duties of his onerous position and well qualified to win the confidence as well as waken the energies of his pupil. In Colonel Robertson the young Chief has met with a mentor as sympathetic as he was wise, and under this combined influence, associated by those happy domestic associations to which I have before referred, we have seen the natural good judgment and sound sense of the Maharaja develop by steady degrees until we felt satisfied of his capacity to assume the full and final responsibility of the government of men. He has made frequent tours among his people. He has studied their wants and needs at first hand. He has thereby acquired the knowledge which will enable him to understand the problems with which he will be confronted. Fortified by this knowledge, his naturally business-like habits and his instinctive self-reliance should enable him to steer a straight course. He will be assisted by a Dewan who has already earned confirmation in his responsible office and by two capable Councillors of State. He will have the advice of a Private Secretary whose abilities have specially recommended him for the selection. The time, I hope, will never come when the Maharaja may be unable to rely upon the support and counsel of the British Resident to whom he should turn, not as to a schoolmaster but as a protector and friend."

Then turning towards the Maharaja, Lord Curzon continued :—  
 "Pray do not think that I am going to read you a lecture. Rulers are not made virtuous by installation homilies but by the instincts of their nature, by a diligent training and by a willingness to profit by the wisdom and experience of others. There was a learned

French priest named Fenelon who was specially engaged to give lectures in the art of rule to the grandson of Louis XIV of France. But I am sorry to say that the young man was no better at the end than at the beginning. Similarly we know that all the precepts of the wisest of men, King Solomon, left no impression upon his son. I am not going, therefore, to give you a text-book of moral maxims. I will only ask you to remember this—the young man of 18 who becomes a Ruler not only enjoys one of the noblest opportunities but also bears one of the greatest responsibilities in the world. Upon you to a large extent will depend the happiness and comfort of several millions of your fellow creatures who already look up to you with reverence, who if you rule well, will regard you with devotion but if you rule badly, with indifference and despair. You are put in this place not for your own sake; to think that is the greatest of all human errors, but for theirs. If you act conscientiously and dutifully, you may leave a name that will live for generations in the memory of your people. If you throw away your chances and become a sluggard or worse, your name will be written in water and your memory will pass like a puff of smoke from the minds of men. Therefore I beg of you at this turning-point in your life to remember these things. Put your heart into your work. Be just. Be courageous. Be merciful to the lowly. Be considerate to all. Work as though you were going to live not for 90 years but for 5; for duty, believe me, cannot afford to loiter and there ought to be no blank spaces in a Ruler's diary....."

The Maharaja was after the conclusion of the speech formally led up the dais by the Viceroy and installed in one of the two State chairs. The Foreign Secretary having read the titles of the Maharaja, the Viceroy declared that the Maharaja was invested with full powers of administration. The event was immediately signalled by a salute of 21 guns from the fort, while the band played the National Anthem. The Viceroy's khillats were then brought in and conferred on the Maharaja.

The Maharaja then rose and made a reply to the Viceroy's speech in these words:—"It is with feelings of no mere conventional loyalty and gratitude—loyalty to His Majesty the King-

Emperor and gratitude to yourself his representative—that I acknowledge the great honour conferred upon me in receiving at Your Excellency's hands the charge of my State this day. The history of Mysore with the romantic fortunes of our ancient dynasty must ever inspire in its Ruler a feeling of gratitude to the British throne, which adds, I think, a special quality to the allegiance which it is my first duty to publicly tender to the person of His Gracious Majesty King Edward VII. The restoration of His Majesty to health by God's goodness is nowhere in the British Empire hailed with more heartfelt thankfulness than in the loyal State of Mysore. To Your Excellency I owe something more than ordinary thanks. In common with the rest of the Chiefs of India, I am indebted to Your Excellency for the many acts by which you have proved yourself to be our friend, most of all perhaps for the ennobling ideal of duty ever held up before us, and the words of weighty advice which Your Excellency has now addressed to me will, believe me, sink the deeper into my mind from the example and authority of the illustrious Viceroy who has uttered them. But more than this, I am under a particular and personal obligation to Your Excellency for the distinction bestowed upon me by this second visit to Mysore.

“In gratefully acknowledging the sacrifice entailed on Your Excellency, I would venture to assure Your Excellency that I shall never forget the honour done me on this the most important day of my career. How important are the responsibilities which now devolve upon me I fully realise and this it is my ambition to prove by performance rather than by words. The inheritance to which I succeed is no ordinary one and I appreciate what Mysore owes to wise statesmen and the care of the British Government under the Regency of my revered mother. But at the same time, I know full well that I cannot rest on the laurels won by others and that my utmost efforts are needed not only to maintain for my subjects the benefits they already enjoy but to press onward to a yet higher standard of efficiency. How far I may be granted the ability to cope with the problems before me the future only can show, but it is a comfort to me to feel that I shall for some time at any rate enjoy the assistance of my well proved friend the Honourable

Colonel Donald Robertson as Resident of the State. And speaking with all deference, I am able to say that I begin my task with some knowledge of its difficulties, thanks to the education I have received from Mr. Fraser to whom I hope to prove that his labours for the past six years have not been without fruit. This much at any rate can confidently be affirmed that the desire and the effort to succeed shall not be lacking. I have now seen a great deal of my State with its beautiful scenery and its loyal people and it would be a poor heart indeed that was not filled with pride and love for such an inheritance. May Heaven grant me the ability as well as the ambition to make a full and wise use of the great opportunities of my position and to govern without fear or favour for the lasting happiness of my people."

In the afternoon the Maharaja received addresses from various bodies and made separate suitable replies. To the members of the Madhva Siddhantonnahini Sabha, a religious body representing the followers of Sri Madhva's Dwaitha philosophy, His Highness conveyed the assurance that all institutions which had for their object the development of reverence and godliness in man deserved encouragement and as such the Sabha had his sympathy. To the representatives of the London and Wesleyan Missions in the Mysore State, His Highness said that their efforts to spread education and to foster qualities of good citizenship needed no commendation at his hands, that it was a matter of pride and pleasure to him that they spoke in such appreciative terms of his late lamented father and of his revered mother, and striving after the same high ideals as they entertained, he would continue to promote the welfare of all classes and creeds among his subjects. To the members of the Mahomedan community, the Maharaja replied in Urdu and assured them that it was his great wish that his Muslim subjects in Mysore should progress in the arts, science and literature like the other communities. To the representatives of the North and South Planters' Associations, His Highness said that it was gratifying to him to note their reference to the broad-minded and enlightened principles that had guided the administration of his illustrious father and of his esteemed mother and to assure them that he would be guided by the same principles.



A number of other addresses also were presented to His Highness, among them being one from the inhabitants of the French Settlement of Pondicherry, another from the members of the Eurasian and Anglo-Indian Association of Mysore and Coorg, and a third from the people of Coorg. Among the deputations that had arrived to offer their congratulations to the young Maharaja was one from Kapurthala in the Punjab.

The happy recovery of the King-Emperor Edward VII and His Majesty's Coronation in England on the day succeeding the installation of the Maharaja were events of common rejoicing throughout the British Empire. On this day an open air Coronation parade service was held in Mysore on the old polo ground adjoining the Government House at which both the Viceroy and the Maharaja were present. Lord Curzon after spending a few days in the jungles of Mysore in the Gundlupet taluk engaged in bison shooting and other shikar, finally left Mysore on the morning of the 13th August and proceeded to Ootacamund.

## **CHAPTER XXIV.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Form of the New Government in Mysore.**

The investiture of the young Maharaja with ruling powers came at a time and in circumstances more fortunate than existed in the days of His Highness' grand-father or of his father. Krishnaraja Wodeyar III had by the prudent management of Purnaiya no financial embarrassment when he started his career as actual ruler. But the Paramount Power allowed him to assume the government merely imposing on him a vague obligation to rule the country to the benefit of his subjects, without making any proper provision to give His Highness adequate training to do so according to the standard expected by that Power. Chamaraja Wodeyar no doubt succeeded to the government of a peaceful country with all the advantages of a good education and proper political training for the great position he was to fill. But it must at the same time be said that the country had been devastated by a severe famine and had been left burdened with a debt of Rs. 80 lakhs with all branches of administration crippled. On the other hand, Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV was fortunate to assume the country in more favourable circumstances inasmuch as he had received not only a good training fitting him for his position but also whose parents had by wise management left him a surplus of more than Rs. 44 lakhs in the treasury, with a reconstructed Government consisting of efficiently administered departments.

The first official act of the Maharaja was the issue of a proclamation to the people of the State in which His Highness announced that he had assumed on the termination of his minority the government of the country from the hands of his revered mother. All judges and magistrates and other officers of the civil and military departments were continued in their respective posts and were allowed to exercise the respective functions belonging to them, subject to such alterations as might be made in the future for the good of the State. His Highness also declared that it would

be his earnest endeavour to promote the advancement of the State as well as the welfare of his subjects following in the footsteps of his illustrious father of blessed memory and of his revered and beloved mother. P. N. Krishna Murthi (afterwards Sir) was continued as Dewan, but the number of Members of the State Council which was three during the period of the Regency was reduced by one and V. P. Madhava Rao and C. Srinivasa Iyengar were confirmed in their places.

On the accession of the Maharaja to power, the exigencies which existed during the time of the Regency to have a Council more or less of an executive character ceased to operate. To the British Government the Maharaja was solely responsible for maintaining amicable relations with that Power and for the efficient administration of his State. The Council, therefore, resumed its old character of being a Consultative Council. But at the same time care was taken to maintain it as an efficient body with real power, acting not only in co-operation with the Dewan but also serving as a sort of check on his actions and opinions. The work of the State was distributed as during the Regency period between the Dewan and the Councillors according to a prescribed list and a schedule was drawn up in which all cases which needed the orders of His Highness the Maharaja were specified. Cases falling under this schedule were, in the first instance, to be submitted by the Secretary concerned to the Councillor in charge of the department on whom rested the initiative entailing where necessary the preparation of a note for the consideration of the Council. The matter was then to be placed before the Council and submitted with the opinions of the Dewan and the Councillors for the orders of the Maharaja. Cases not falling under this schedule were to be dealt with by the Dewan as the senior executive officer of the State. In such matters the Secretary was to draft the necessary orders and forward the papers to the Dewan through the Member of Council concerned. If any material difference of opinion became perceptible between a member of Council and the Dewan, it was left to the discretion of the Dewan to treat the subject as a Council matter or to submit the same for the orders of the Maharaja. If in any matter connected with a department not directly under his own charge the Dewan

considered that immediate action was necessary, he was free to issue orders on his own authority, a copy of the order issued being at once sent to the Councillor concerned and a report being also made to the Maharaja for the necessity of such an order. A Revenue Commissioner was also appointed for the State with the powers specified in the Land Revenue Code and V. P. Madhava Rao was appointed to the place, in addition to his being a member of the Council.

Evan Machonochie (afterwards Sir) of the Bombay Civil Service was appointed Private Secretary to the Maharaja. It was considered at the time that an undue share of authority had passed into the hands of the Dewans during the period of the Regency and in Lord Curzon's opinion such a state of things did not betoken a healthy future. The Maharaja, he regarded, ought to be the actual ruler of his people and master in his own house. It was therefore thought that a Private Secretary drawn from the Indian Civil Service and who was equipped with the requisite experience would be able to relieve His Highness of drudgery, show him something of the method of disposing of work in British Government offices, and while suppressing his own personality exercise some influence in the direction desired. Mr. S. M. Fraser (afterwards Sir), Tutor and Governor of the Maharaja during his minority, left Mysore after the investiture ceremony was completed and his parting assurance to Machonochie was that in any contingency His Highness could be trusted to 'go four annas better' than could be reasonably expected,—an assurance that was to be most amply fulfilled in the succeeding years.

Sir Evan Machonochie has recorded the following sketch of the Maharaja in his book 'Life in the Indian Civil Service' which he published in 1926 after his retirement.—"Happily, His Highness is to-day ruling wisely a contented people and it is sufficient to say that I found in him a kind and considerate Chief and a loyal friend. On young shoulders he carried a head of extraordinary maturity which was, however, no bar to a boyish and whole-hearted enjoyment of manly sports as well as of the simple pleasures of life. He rode straight to the hounds, played polo with the best, and a first class

game of racquets. He was devoted to animals, particularly his horses and the terrier that would be his constant companion, and he never failed to attend stables of a morning to watch the training, supervise the care and gratify the taste for lucerne and carrots of a stable of carriage horses, hunters and polo ponies that ran well into the second hundred. It was at such times or on a morning ride that confidential matters could be most easily discussed and so we did much business out of office. He had the taste and knowledge to appreciate Western music as well as his own. So my violin came out of its case after many years and we would have musical evenings at my house, with quartets and the like, in which His Highness would take the part of first violin."

Regarding the Maharani-Regent, Machonochie has recorded in the same book this estimate of her character.—"A word of tribute is due to Her Highness the Maharani, late Regent. A certain clinging to power would have been more than excusable in a lady of character and education who during the eight years of her son's minority had ruled the State. But I can say that never during the seven years that I spent in Mysore was I aware of the faintest indication on her part of a desire to intrude, even in minor personal matters, upon her son's domain. Dignity and good sense could no further go."

Scarcely had the Maharaja been in power for a week, when he summoned an extraordinary meeting of his Council at Mysore on the 14th August 1902 and addressed the members in these words:—"Dewan Sahib and Councillors—, Our business to-day is purely formal and will not detain us long. My object in calling this extraordinary meeting is two-fold. In the first place, I desire that no time should be lost by the new administration in giving tangible evidence of its existence and, in the second place, I wish to take the earliest opportunity of meeting my Dewan and Councillors personally in their corporate capacity. We are once again at the beginning of a new experiment in Mysore. Whether that experiment will be a success or the reverse will depend greatly on you. Of your devotion to myself personally, I am well aware. In your devotion to the interests of the State, I have full confidence. No

human institution can be perfect and the new scheme of administration will, no doubt, disclose one kind of defect or another. As the fruit of the labours of my Dewan, aided by my good friend the Resident Colonel Robertson, I myself hope and expect much. This object can only be attained however by single-hearted and unselfish co-operation between the members of Council of the State. It cannot be expected that you will always agree with one another or that I shall always agree with you. It may be that at times you will feel soreness individually and collectively at being overruled. At such times I ask you to give credit to those who disagree with you for being actuated by the same sense of public duty as yourselves and to reflect that in giving your honest opinion and urging it to the utmost of your power you have done your duty and retained your self-respect. I ask you to banish all sense of resentment and to address yourselves to the next question before you with undiminished courage and goodwill. If this is the spirit that animates our labours, I can, relying on your mature experience and proved abilities, look forward with confidence to the future. In conclusion, I desire to assure you collectively of my loyal support and individually of my unfailing sympathy and consideration. May Heaven always guide us to the lasting good of my dear people."

Some rooms were allotted in the Palace for the Private Secretary's office and His Highness lost no time in getting to work. He also attended the office with unfailing regularity at any time after eleven and usually remained there till the business of the day was completed. Apart from private correspondence and disposal of matters relating to the Palace, a large number of papers relating to Government were placed before the Maharaja daily for his orders and the number of such papers exceeded 900 even in the first year of his rule. Judged by even a quantitative standard, said the Dewan Sir P. N. Krishna Murthi in his address to the Representative Assembly of 1903, it must be acknowledged that the new scheme was not behind its predecessor and that His Highness had borne a considerable share of the work of the State. The subjects dealt with by His Highness were, as might be expected, of considerable variety and range embracing all the important cases in all the

branches of the administration. The Dewan also said that His Highness with the shining examples of his two illustrious parents before him had shown the same earnest devotion to duty and given the same unfailing support to his ministers as had been received at the hands of His Highness' father and his mother.

## CHAPTER XXV.

### Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.

**Maharaja's visit to Delhi for the Coronation Durbar—  
Opens the Madras Exhibition and visits Lord Ampthill,  
Governor of Madras—Tours in the State—Yuvaraja's illness  
at Ajmer—Visits of Lord Kitchner and H. R. H. the Prince  
of Wales—Birthday and Dasara Festivities.**

On the 1st January 1903 the Maharaja took part in the historic functions of the great Durbar at Delhi to celebrate the event in India of the accession of Edward VII to the throne as successor to Queen Victoria. A Mysore camp was formed at a distance of about six miles from the fort with a large party of officials and other guests who accompanied the Maharaja. The Imperial Service troops took part in the Coronation manœuvres and earned the encomiums of the British military department for their smart turn-out, soldierly bearing and excellent behaviour. In the State itself durbars were held at all district headquarters and other places at which proclamations in English and Kanada announcing His Majesty Edward VII's accession to the throne as King of England and Emperor of India were read to the assembled people. School sports and illuminations and fireworks formed parts of the programme. Divine worship was conducted in all temples and mosques and there was a general feeding of the poor of all classes. A large number of prisoners were released in honour of the occasion.

In December 1903 the Maharaja proceeded to Madras in response to a request to open the Industrial and Arts Exhibition got up there. On the 22nd of that month the citizens of Madras received His Highness at the Railway Station with an address of welcome, and in reply the Maharaja while expressing genuine pleasure at meeting so many of the leading citizens of that great city, conveyed the assurance to them that his earnest desire was to uphold the great traditions of the State and to do what in him lay to maintain for Mysore that position in the Indian polity which they were good



enough to assign to it. On the 26th the Exhibition was opened by His Highness and the following extracts from his speech on the occasion indicate some of his views:—"Here, in India, the problem is peculiar. Our trade tends steadily to expand and it is possible to demonstrate by means of statistics the increasing prosperity of the country generally. On the other hand, we in India know that the ancient handicrafts are decaying, that the fabrics for which India was renowned in the past are supplanted by the products of Western looms, and that our industries are not displaying that renewed vitality which will enable them to compete successfully in the home or the foreign market. The cultivator on the margin of subsistence remains a starveling cultivator, the educated man seeks Government employment or the readily available profession of a lawyer, while the belated artisan works on the lines marked out for him by his forefathers for a return that barely keeps body and soul together. It is said that India is dependent on agriculture and must always remain so. That may be so; but there can, I venture to think, be little doubt that the solution of the ever recurring famine problem is to be found not merely in the improvement of agriculture, the cheapening of loans, or the more equitable distribution of taxation, but still more in the removal from the land to industrial pursuits of a great portion of those, who, at the best, gain but a miserable subsistence, and on the slightest failure of the season are thrown on public charity. It is time for us in India to be up and doing; new markets must be found, new methods adopted and new handicrafts developed, whilst the educated unemployed, no less than the skilled and unskilled labourers, all those, in fact, whose precarious means of livelihood is a standing menace to the well-being of the State must find employment in reorganised and progressive industries..... It seems to me that what we want is more outside light and assistance from those interested in industries. Our schools should not be left entirely to officials who are either fully occupied with their other duties or whose ideas are prone, in the nature of things, to run in official grooves. I should like to see all those who "think" and "know" giving us their active assistance and not merely their criticism of our results. It is not Governments or forms of

Government that have made the great industrial nations, but the spirit of the people and the energy of one and all working to a common end."

Early in January following, the Maharaja paid a visit to Lord Amthill, then Governor of Madras. Sir Evan Machonochie gives in his book the following description of this visit :—" I remember being much struck with the attitude of the crowd as we drove in state. On such occasions an Indian crowd is impassive and the progress of a Governor usually excites no more than a dull curiosity. With a Maharaja the scene is very different. To gaze on his auspicious countenance brings good luck. Every face is eager, animated and smiling and the babies are held up in their mothers' arms to share in the blessings diffused by the divinity of his presence."

The first tour undertaken by the Maharaja within the limits of the State after he assumed power was in November 1904. On the 18th of that month His Highness left his Palace at Mysore soon after 9 a.m. in semi-state with escort and drove to the toll-bar on the Bannur road. Here a motor car was waiting and His Highness and the Yuvaraja with two others of the party started shortly after 10 o'clock. Rapid travelling was impracticable owing to the numerous pandals erected all along the road by the inhabitants of the adjoining villages and the throngs of people that were gathered to catch a sight of His Highness. The Maharaja stopped at a number of places on the way where he conversed with officials and others. Outside Gargeshwari a deputation was present of the Sri Vyasaraya Mutt at Sosalé closeby with the insignias of the institution and an address of welcome. At Tirumakudlu the Maharaja was received by the district officers and by the important local people. His Highness then embarked on a raft with a very carefully designed canopy and was conveyed across the junction of the Kaveri and Kapila rivers to the steps of the Gunja Narasimha Swamy temple at T.Narsipur. The scene during the crossing was, it is stated, most striking. Thousands of people from all the country round had collected and filled the river, wading up to the waist and deeper to get a glimpse of the Maharaja. The insignias

of the Lingayat and other communities were also displayed and the whole distance between between the Mysore road and the temple was paced with a surging crowd, jostling and splashing but immensely good-humoured and most anxious to lend a hand at the raft. The high banks on the Narsipur side were hidden by sight-seers offering a most enthusiastic welcome.

A pandal had been erected in the temple precincts where His Highness received addresses from the T-Narsipur Municipality and inhabitants of the taluk and acknowledged them briefly in Kanada. In the afternoon a visit was paid to the Hoysala temple at Somnathpur, some 4 miles along the Bannur road on the north side of the Kaveri. After returning to camp, His Highness visited in the evening the temples on either side of the junction, when the river banks and bed and adjoining buildings were illuminated effectively.

On the morning of the 19th November His Highness left T-Narsipur on horseback and reached Nanjangud at about 10-30 a.m. As on the previous day, pandals were much in evidence all along the route, at each of which short halts were made. Outside the town of Nanjangud a deputation from the Sri Raghavendraswamy Mutt and the temple received His Highness and numerous pandals along the streets of the town testified to the loyalty of the inhabitants. In a pandal in the Bazaar Chowk, His Highness received an address from the Municipality enclosed in a silver casket and acknowledged it in a short reply. The members of the Municipality and of the Representative Assembly, the local officials, legal practitioners and leading merchants were then introduced to His Highness. In the afternoon His Highness visited some of the local offices and institutions and the evening closed with fireworks and illuminations. On the 20th the party left Nanjangud in the morning and taking the road to Gundlupet turned from Begur to Hediya where a shooting camp had been formed. The next day His Highness and the Yuvaraja returned to Mysore.

In subsequent years His Highness made trips to various places Ajmer, Calcutta, Bombay, Kashmir, Simla, Badrinath,

Mount Kailas. The trip to Ajmer was in connection with the illness of His Highness' brother the Yuvaraja who was studying at the Mayo College. On receiving news that the Yuvaraja had an attack of typhoid, the Maharaja started off at a moment's notice with his mother and his durbar physician. Happily, all ended well and the patient recovered and returned to Mysore. The Maharaja and the members of his family were however not so fortunate in the case of the second princess Narasarajammanni who passed away while still young after a long illness in November 1904 and the whole country mingled its sorrow with that of the members of the Royal Family.

The earliest visitor to the Maharaja after his accession to power was Lord Kitchner, the brilliant British General and Commander-in-Chief of the Indian forces. In April 1904 he visited Mysore and inspected the Imperial Service Regiment and the Transport Corps of the State.

In January and February 1906 Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales (subsequently known as George V and Queen Mary) paid a visit to the State. They were warmly welcomed everywhere with spontaneous demonstrations of joy and devotion by all classes of people in the State. To afford the august visitors an opportunity to see the products of the arts and industries of the State and its resources as well, an Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition was held at Mysore. Their Royal Highnesses paid a visit to it and evinced considerable interest in the exhibits. The Prince of Wales also laid the foundation-stone of the Chamarajendra Technical Institute at Mysore, and at Bangalore he unveiled the statue raised to the memory of Her late Majesty the Queen-Empress Victoria.

At the banquet in honour of the Prince and Princess of Wales on the 30th January 1906 the Maharaja said:—"The fortunes of Mysore will ever be associated in history with the consolidation of the British Power in India. It was in Mysore that the great Duke of Wellington received his baptism of fire and won his first laurels. It was with the aid of the Mysore Horse and the Transport that he gained imperishable fame on the battle fields of the Deccan. In

the horsemen who now have the greatly-prized honour of forming your escort and personal guard, Your Royal Highnesses see the descendants of the men who fought at Seringapatam and in the Deccan. Of the efficiency of my Imperial Service troops, it is not for me to say more than that one and all have worked their hardest to fit themselves for the front line of the army of the Empire. But of their spirit I dare affirm that the one ambition of every officer and man is to emulate the valour of his ancestors in the service of His Majesty the King-Emperor. I beg Your Royal Highness to convey to His Gracious Majesty the assurance that whenever the call may come, Mysore will not be found wanting."

The Birthday and the Dasara festivities now assumed their old splendour even in a larger degree than they possessed in the days of His Highness' father and of his grand-father. On these occasions large numbers of European and Indian guests are usually invited and larger and larger crowds of people are attracted to the capital to witness the sports and gaieties taking place at the time. On occasions of his Birthday the Maharaja goes to the Government House in procession through some of the main streets and there His Highness is welcomed by his European guests. At night His Highness returns to the Palace in grand procession. Polo tournaments, lawn tennis matches and various other sports are also combined with horse racing during this period.

Occasion may be taken here to mention that Sir S. M. Fraser the former Tutor of the Maharaja returned to Mysore in the capacity of British Resident in 1905 and when he proposed the toast of His Highness at the Birthday Banquet held on the 15th June 1908, the Maharaja gave expression to these sentiments:—"I find some difficulty in responding adequately to the more than generous terms in which you, Sir, have proposed my health, but if I am tempted to ascribe some measure of your appreciation to the partiality of an old friend, it is none the less gratifying to me to learn that the hospitality of Mysore is so warmly recognised by my friends. There are, however, two references in your speech to which I can respond without reserve. As you truly observe, my lamented father established a tradition of personal regard and,

indeed affection, between the Ruler of Mysore and his European friends and that tradition I regard it as my duty and my privilege to maintain. In the second place, you have referred to the peculiar relation in which Mysore stands with regard to the Government and officers of the Paramount Power. This relation stands on the solid basis of benefit conferred on the one hand and as I am proud to maintain, justified on the other. The friendship thus begun has been confirmed and cemented by the closest and most cordial intercourse at work and at play, in fair weather and in foul, for more than one hundred years. That these relations may ever be continued is, I can assure you, the earnest desire of Mysore and its Ruler."

The celebration of the Dasara first began, as we know, in the days of Raja Wodeyar, one of His Highness' ancestors in the beginning of the 17th century. This festival opens on the first day of Aswiya (September or October) and annually attracts to the Mysore City multitudes of people both from inside and outside the State as well as a number of European and other visitors interested in the social and artistic aspects of the occasion. Vijayadasami or victory day is the name given to the last day of the Dasara, while the preceding nine days are designated Navaratri or Nine Nights. On the morning of the first day of the festival His Highness goes to Chamundi Thotti where all the religious functions of the Palace take place. An image of the family goddess is here installed. On this occasion His Highness appears before the image wearing a special vesture and also a Kankanam or bangle sacred to the goddess. This bangle is not removed nor does His Highness leave the Palace until the first nine days of the festival are completed. Following the traditions of his ancestors, the Maharaja daily in the evening sits on the throne in view of the public and in the open space in front of the Palace a programme of musical drills and other displays is gone through. To the durbar on the ninth day, European guests are invited and are received with appropriate formalities usual on such occasions, while the latter return to the Maharaja the usual civilities. The Resident is seated in a chair of state on His Highness' right, while the other European guests are seated in long rows on the same side. On the left are seated

members of the Ruling Family, Arasu noblemen, State officers and other invitees. His Highness seated on the golden throne and wearing magnificent jewels is the gorgeous centre of a brilliant scene. At the close of the scene the guests bow in front of the throne and each lady is handed by the Maharaja a bouquet and a small bottle of scent.

On the tenth day the Maharaja goes in full State procession to the Banni Mantap (so designated in memory of the Banni tree on which the Pandavas are said to have deposited their arms during the year of their obligatory concealment) situated at some distance to the north of the city. On the morning of this day the State sword is placed in a palanquin and sent to the Banni Mantap along with the State horse and the State elephant. The great procession takes place late in the afternoon through the streets packed with dense crowds of sight-seers on both sides. The Maharaja sits in a golden howdah carried on the back of a magnificent elephant. At Banni Mantap a parade is held just after sunset. After the parade, His Highness performs Puja (worship) before the State sword and the Banni tree. The sword, the elephant and the horse are then sent back to the Palace. His Highness follows them in a magnificent procession illuminated at one time by torch lights which have given place now to bright electric lights.

## **CHAPTER XXVI.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Various Administrative Improvements—1902—1906.**

##### **Finance.**

During the period closing the early part of the year 1906 various measures of internal improvement were inaugurated. The earliest administrative event of the new Maharaja's reign was the completion of the examination of the State accounts by Mr. Kiernander, a retired financial officer of the Government of India. In the year 1881 the ordinary revenue of the State was Rs. 107½ lakhs, while in 1902-03 the first year of the Maharaja's reign it stood at Rs. 180 lakhs. What were regarded as permanent charges in which little scope existed for curtailment in a time of necessity amounted to about Rs. 95½ lakhs, while in 1881 it was about Rs. 58 lakhs. The increase in expenditure was partly due to the enhancement of the Subsidy. The total expenditure under other administrative heads where reduction was possible in a time of need was about Rs. 88 lakhs as compared with Rs. 39 lakhs in 1881 the year of the Rendition. It was found, however, that the most appreciable increases related to such useful departments as Medical, Education, Public Works, Police, Law and Justice. Mr. Kiernander recorded his testimony to the prosperous condition of the finances of the State notwithstanding the heavy drain on its resources due to enhanced Subsidy, cost of reconstruction of a number of administrative departments, the Kaveri Electric scheme and other items.

Sir Donald Robertson, the British Resident who vacated his office in November 1903, apart from the service he rendered in the framing of the Mysore Constitution was also helpful in placing the financial control of the State on a more satisfactory footing. He suggested the appointment of a trained audit officer as Comptroller of the State finances and this suggestion was accepted by the Durbar. He also expressed the opinion that this officer should have adequate freedom to express his views on matters involving any



substantial expenditure or departure from financial rules as well as the right of direct access to His Highness in the last resort. Application was made to the Government of India for the services of a qualified officer and one was borrowed from the Finance Department of that Government. Both this officer as well as his successor, however, did not perceive the difference between British India and a Native State and made no attempt to apply the audit rules of British India in a flexible manner to the Mysore State. In British India, it is believed that the financial officers are accustomed generally to have the Secretary of State at their back and in the case of any difference with the Government have the privilege of the last word expressed with considerable latitude. In a Native State, on the other hand, the Government for the time being and the Maharaja as matters stand at present should have the final word.

### **Educational Progress.**

Notwithstanding the progress that was achieved in the general education of the people since the Rendition in 1881, there was still a vast field of popular ignorance which the light of knowledge had not touched. Out of a population of nearly  $5\frac{1}{2}$  millions, only 4.8 per cent were returned at the census of 1901 as literate, or in other words 95.2 per cent of the population were unlettered. If the two sexes were viewed separately, the percentage of males literate was 8.8 of their population and that of females 0.6 per cent to their total number. Similarly the percentage of male pupils under instruction was 23.09 and that of females 4.15 or an average of 13.62 for the children of both sexes together to the school-going population. The percentage of number of schools to the number of towns and villages was 23.29. It was regarded at this time as a serious problem how within a reasonable time further facilities could be created to diminish this appalling mass of popular ignorance.

In the year 1902 when the Maharaja began to rule his State, there were 2231 public schools, their total attendance being 1,11,624. The percentages of boys and girls to those of school-going age were respectively 23 and 4. In this year some schools were opened specially for the backward class of Lambanies. The

total expenditure on education was Rs. 11,44,352. A number of private benefactions now began to come in for educational and other purposes. Of these, the offer of Sowcar Doddanna Setty of Bangalore to construct and endow a free English school up to the Lower Secondary standard at a large cost and the gift by Sowcar Padma Setty of a substantial building named Vani Vilas Pathasala after H. H. the Maharani-Regent at Sravanabelagola, the great pilgrim centre of the Jains, were noteworthy. The same Sowcar gave also an endowment for scholarships.

Various other measures were also adopted to give an impetus to all kinds of education. In 1902-03 two scholarships were for the first time awarded to Mahomedan students to study in the famous college at Aligarh established by Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. In the same year the Maharani's Girls' School at Mysore was raised to the grade of a college and affiliated to the Madras University, and one young lady passed in two and another in one of the branches of the B.A. Degree examination and a third in the First in Arts examination, and from this time the college began to admit girls of respectable parentage of all communities. In 1905 a further impetus was given to adult female education by instituting 30 scholarships for the education of widows, in addition to the scholarships given from a fund called the Devaraja Bahadur Fund.

In 1902 an offer of substantial help was made by the Mysore Government to the provisional committee for the Institute of Science projected by J. N. Tata of Bombay on the understanding that it was to be located at Bangalore. It took some time for the provisional committee in consultation with the Government of India to accept this offer. In 1905, however, it was settled that the institute was to be established in Bangalore and the annual grant from the Mysore Government was fixed at Rs. 50,000.

In the social and economic conditions of the country as they stood at this time, it was considered that any scheme of technical education which involved a large outlay or the co-operation of a large number of people would end in disappointment, if not total failure. It was therefore regarded safer to embark on humbler

schemes of technical or industrial education. The object kept in view was not the imparting of any ideal, theoretical or scientific course of instruction but the teaching of such industries and trades on improved methods as were adapted to supply the existing wants of the people such as carpentry, weaving, silk-rearing, iron-work, rattan-work, lacquer-work and to turn out every year a number of pupils fully equipped with the means of earning their livelihood. As a first step, schools were established at Chennapatna and four others places and these were intended more or less as workshops also conducted on business principles. In the case of industries for training in which facilities did not exist in the Mysore State, a number of scholarships was instituted to enable Mysore pupils to undergo training in the School of Arts, Madras or Bombay, or other institutions where such industries were taught. In connection with the weaving industry, weaving schools with a carpentry class attached in which elementary drawing was also taught were established at Hole-Narsipur and three other places.

As an experimental measure, a few selected schoolmasters were deputed to Tata's Silk Farm at Bangalore for training for a period of three months in improved methods of growing mulberry trees, rearing silk worms and reeling, the ultimate object being to train up a number of schoolmasters who like the special inspectors in Japan were to help in the constant maintenance of a healthy breed of worms.

Apart from increasing the efficiency of the artisans and of their mechanical appliances, it was also considered necessary to give dignity to the various callings which they greatly lacked at the time and which therefore precluded the higher classes from engaging themselves in them as freely as they otherwise would have done. As a means to achieve this object, it was considered desirable to teach some of the handicrafts to the high school and college students. It was also considered necessary in order to increase the level of the knowledge of the technical arts among the higher classes to depute a number of students to foreign countries for the purpose of studying selected industries in those countries. Accordingly three students were deputed to America to learn

electrical engineering in the workshops of the General Electric Company at Schenectaddy. An officer of the Geological Department was sent to England to undergo an advanced course of training in Geology.

### **Local Self-Government.**

The Local Boards Regulation which was long in incubation from 1883 at last received the approval of the Government of India and was passed into law by the Durbar in 1902, and the rules required under this enactment were issued in September 1903. Under these rules were constituted eight District Boards corresponding to the 8 revenue districts, 77 Taluk Boards one for each taluk or sub-taluk and 38 Unions. These Unions were formerly Minor Municipalities and they were converted into Unions as they contained a population of less than 3000 each. The strength of the members of a Union was to be fixed in each case by Government and the chairman of the Panchayet or the governing body was to be appointed by Government on the recommendation of the Deputy Commissioners. Each Taluk Board was to consist of 12 members, four ex-officio—the Assistant Commissioner, the Amildar, the medical officer and the senior officer of the Public Works Department, 4 elected members being men of the full age of 21 years able to read and write and either holding or owning in the taluk land assessed at not less than Rs. 50 per annum, or officiating as Patel of any village in the taluk, or paying a house-tax of not less than Rs. 5 per annum. The electors were to be men with the same qualifications, the educational qualification being however regarded as not indispensable. One member of the taluk head-quarter Municipal Board was to be elected by its members from among their own body and the remaining three were to be nominated by Government. The District Board was to consist of (a) ex-officio members—the Deputy Commissioner as President, Assistant Commissioners in revenue charge of the taluks as well as the Assistant Commissioner if any at the headquarters not placed in revenue charge of a taluk, and the chief or senior officer for the district in each of the departments of Medical Relief, Engineering and Education; (b) one non-official representative from each of the taluks in the district to be elected by the members of the Taluk

Board from among their body; and (c) such number as would make up the strength of the Board, which strength in the case of the Mysore District was to be 30 and in the case of the other districts 25, to be appointed by Government on the recommendation of the the Deputy Commissioner. The Vice-President of the District Board was to be one appointed by the Government or one elected by the members when so authorised by Government. The members of the Local Boards other than the ex-officio members were to hold office for three years. Questions coming before the Local Boards were to be decided by a majority of votes.

The income under Local Funds consisted chiefly of the one anna local cess collected on a number of items of revenue. 76 per cent of the cess on land revenue in each district was credited to the District Board of that district and was expended within the district through the agency of District and Taluk Boards and Unions. The balance of 24 per cent, together with the 33 per cent of the local cess on Excise and other items of revenue, went to form a fund called the Village School Fund which was spent entirely on primary education in rural parts.

#### **Mysore City Improvement Trust.**

In 1903 an annual sum of Rs. 3 lakhs was allotted for the improvement of the Mysore City and a Trust Board to carry out improvements was also formed. Sir Evan Machonochie has given in his book "Life in the Indian Civil Service" a description of the work done by this Board:—"Shortly after my arrival, a committee was constituted to consider the improvement of the Mysore City. It was composed of all the leading officials of the State and was too large to be of any practical use. I ventured to suggest that if they would appoint a small sub-committee and place at its disposal a competent surveyor, it would be possible to submit definite proposals. This was agreed to and we got to work. The committee included the Civil Surgeon (P. S. Achuta Rao), a Mysorean who besides possessing high professional qualifications was the most genial and kindly of men..... Another (M. Venkat-krishnaiya) was the editor of the 'Mysore Herald' which was the organ of the local opposition. He devoted much ink and eloquence

to attacks on our early efforts towards a new efficiency and preached 'Mysore for Mysorean' with much vigour. But his intentions were good and we got on amicably. We were fortunate in the officer of the Public Works Department placed at our disposal. J. E. A. D'Cruz was not only a good all-round engineer and an exceptionally competent surveyor but also an untiring and devoted worker. The committee went over every part of the town,—a not very appetising business before breakfast,—for though the late Maharaja had effected immense improvements in the way of magnificent roads and had opened new quarters laid out on the grand scale, much of the town was congested and some portions were no better than slums. In something like six months Mr. D'Cruz with a diminutive staff mostly trained by himself and at trifling cost had completed an admirable city survey giving every holding in detail to scale..... We submitted our proposals and suggested the formation of an 'Improvement Trust' to carry them out with a substantial allotment from Government funds. The proposal was accepted and the Trust was constituted, composed of a few officials and some leading citizens with a senior executive engineer as chairman. We got to work, cleared out the slums, straightened and widened the roads, put in a surface drainage system leading into main sewers that discharged into septic tanks, provided new quarters for the displaced population and tidied up generally. The city of Mysore, as a consequence, challenges comparison for beauty, cleanliness and general amenity with any capital of its size in the world."

### **Irrigation.**

The large number of tanks in the Mysore State inherited from the past always was, as we have already seen, a matter of much solicitude to the Government. A distinction was maintained between tanks paying an assessment of Rs. 300 and under and those paying Rs. 100 and under. For the latter the Government was incurring no expenditure, while for the former it undertook to do the masonry and stonework provided the ryots did the earth-work. This distinction was abolished in 1904 and all masonry and stonework was undertaken to be executed by Government under

certain specified conditions. In special cases, however, when the amount of earthwork imposed an unreasonable burden on the ryots, discretion was given to the Deputy Commissioners to allow some relaxation. By this measure it was hoped that the people would accord their full co-operation in preserving from deterioration the great heritage of tanks, the usefulness of which could not be over-rated.

#### **Ethnological Survey.**

An Ethnological Survey was inaugurated by the Government of India soon after the census of 1901 and the Mysore Government also followed their example shortly after. The survey included not only a systematic enquiry into the ethnography of each of the major castes but also a detailed examination, from an anthropometric point of view, of their physical characters. The ethnographic portion of the survey in Mysore was entrusted to the late H. V. Nanjundaiya who was Secretary to Government at the time.

#### **Electric Lighting of Bangalore.**

The Electric Power Scheme continued to yield considerable profit, and power began to be applied for purposes of illumination, besides that of mining. On the 3rd August 1905 the electric-lighting scheme for the Bangalore City was completed, the inaugural ceremony being performed by the Hon'ble Sir John Hewett, Member of the Viceroy's Council. In declaring that Bangalore was the first city in India to be lighted by electricity, Sir John Hewett complimented His Highness' Government for the far-seeing wisdom that marked the administration of the State.

#### **Co-operative Societies.**

As has been already stated, the Agricultural Banks started for the relief of rural indebtedness had not fulfilled the expectations formed of them. The problems relating to the improvement of the agriculturists and the industrialists were regarded as too important to be left to themselves and as a consequence, it became necessary to devise better methods. Fortunately the Government of India had passed a measure in 1904 called the Co-operative Credit Societies Act and the Durbar taking advantage of the wider

knowledge and larger experience of the Supreme Government adopted the same Act for the Mysore State in June 1905 with certain modifications suited to local conditions. This Regulation was intended to be helpful to all classes of people for the furtherance of thrift and providence among them. To the agriculturists and artisans especially, the Regulation was intended to be an easy means of combination by which they could obtain the credit they needed for their business and derive benefit in other ways also. The societies were also meant to act in behalf of the members for the supply to them of raw material, seed or manure, articles of consumption or other requisites. There existed also a provision in the Regulation to authorise the Registrar who was the supervising officer of all societies to himself settle disputes relating to their business or to refer them to arbitration.

In the first year of the introduction of this new scheme, seven societies were started at different places. The society at Bangalore was purely an urban society and the one at Hole-Narsipur was mainly intended for the benefit of the weavers of that taluk. The society at Kotta in the Sira taluk was a grain bank in which the capital subscribed by the members and the loans issued were in the shape of grain. His Highness the Maharaja manifested keen interest in the development of these societies and placed a large sum of money from his own purse at the disposal of the Registrar for popularising this movement. His Highness' Government also gave exemption from stamp and registration fees and issued well-considered rules for the settlement of disputes by arbitration. They also granted advances of money to the societies in the early years of their working. In the second year, the number of societies started was 15 and the society at Saligram in the Krishnarajanagar taluk deputed one of its members to Baroda to study the improved processes of weaving introduced there.

**The economic conditions of the country as they stood in the opening years of the Maharaja's rule.**

The total area of Government lands under occupation before the Rendition was the largest in 1875-76, viz., 42,31,826 acres.



There was a falling off in the subsequent years in the occupied area in consequence of famine. In 1881-82 the extent under occupation excluding area under coffee was 42,13,505 acres. The extent of cultivated area steadily increased from that year and in 1903 the total area was a little over 66 lakhs of acres, showing an increase of more than 56 per cent from the year of the Rendition. The area under dry crop rose from 35,20,687 acres to 55,57,331; that under wet crop from 5,54,554 acres to 7,97,904 and that under garden crop from 1,38,264 acres to 2,43,866. The net value of the produce of an acre of dry cultivation was calculated at Rs. 12/-, of wet at Rs. 50/- and of garden at Rs. 80/-. Taking these estimates which were considered moderate, the total value of the yield in 1903 which was an average year was calculated to amount to a little over Rs. 12½ crores. The nature of the cultivation underwent little improvement in the interval and the increase could more or less be attributed only to the extended area brought under cultivation. Applying the standards of 1903, the total value of the produce of 1881 may be considered to have amounted to a little over Rs. 8 crores, the error if any being in favour of 1881 when prices were low as compared with those of the later year. The average area of a holding increased from 4.8 acres in the period from 1893-97 to 7.22 in the next five years, the assessment also similarly rising from Rs. 6.3 to Rs. 9.6 for each estate.

An Agricultural Chemist had been employed for some years before the Maharaja assumed power. But most of his time had been taken up in acquainting himself with the agricultural and industrial conditions of the country and with the fitting up of a chemical laboratory. He was now directed to devote his attention only to those points that would be of help to the agriculturists. His efforts were required particularly to be directed to a systematic examination of soils in all parts of the State, the ascertainment of the appropriate manures required for particular soils, the adoption of measures for the removal of insects and other pests, the introduction of improved methods of cultivation generally and other allied purposes. An Entomologist was also appointed to assist the Agricultural Chemist in the investigation of the insect pests that attacked the crops.

The depression in the coffee trade owing to the competition from Brazil and other causes much retarded the growth of that industry throughout India. The Durbar, therefore, with great willingness complied at this period with the request made by the North and South Mysore Planters' Associations for a conference on the subject. V. P. Madhava Rao, Member of Council, who was deputed on behalf of Government met Graham Anderson and other leading planters and conferred with them on the state of the industry at Mudigere and Sakalespur, the two important centres of coffee growth. Some of the important subjects considered were the registration of titles, levy of coffee cess, measures for preventing adulteration of coffee. The question of introducing the Coffee Stealing Act and the Labour Law were also touched upon. The fullest assurance of sympathy and help on the part of Government was given to this enterprising body of gentlemen whose industry was of so much benefit to the country. Later, a contribution from the State of Rs. 5000 was sanctioned to enable the Planting Associations to exhibit Mysore coffee and cardamoms at the Luisana Purchase Exposition held in 1904.

The introduction of the Survey and Settlement was completed in 1895 in all parts of the State and the first revision settlement was begun in the year 1900 and the first taluks taken up were Challakere and Molakalmuru. It was noteworthy that there was no necessity in any case whatever for again classifying the soil, the original classification having been found quite satisfactory. The maximum enhancement of assessment on account of revision was about 22 per cent on the original settlement and the minimum was 15 per cent, it being understood that the Government was entitled to a maximum limit of enhancement of 33 per cent. The most noticeable effect of the new revision was upon the garden rate which underwent considerable diminution. The average rate was reduced in Davangere from Rs. 4-6-11 to 2-13-9 and in the Chitaldrug taluk from Rs. 3-14-5 to Rs. 2-8-2, there having been a corresponding decrease in the other taluks also. This reduction was partly due to the large extent of dry lands about 2616 acres which had been converted since the first settlement into garden by means of well irrigation without any aid from Government water

and on which only dry rates were levied. In the Chitaldrug District it was found that there was an increase of prices all round of 35 to 40 per cent since the original settlement. The facilities of communication had also improved and the opening of the railway had not only improved the market for its produce but had also helped in the development of its resources.

The establishment of an experimental farm near the Hebbal village in the Bangalore taluk was taken in hand by the Agricultural Chemist in 1905. A Mycologist and Entomologist for the investigation of insect pests and plant diseases was selected in Canada.

The procedure of inviting objections if any to the grouping of villages and to the maximum rates of assessment within two months before a revision settlement became final was found to give to the land-holders no clear ideas as to how their holdings were individually affected, and facilities were now therefore created for appeals being preferred within three months from the introduction of the revised settlement.

While development of communications in the shape of roads and railways had tended to bring about an expansion of the area of the land under cultivation and a consequent increase in the produce derived from it, the same cause had had a somewhat detrimental effect on the manufactures of the country. The artisans as in other parts of India generally carried on their occupations in their own homes and found a market in their own neighbourhood or, at best, at short distances from their places of business. The facilities of transport now created while opening a market for grain and other raw produce of the country, at the same time opened also a door for the influx of cheap foreign goods which necessarily caused a shrinkage in the manufacturing industries of the State. The statistics of the railborne trade during the ten years from 1890 to 1900 showed a large export trade in grain and pulse, hides and skins, horns, oil seeds, raw silk and similar produce, while the imports were mostly such as manufactured leather, cotton goods, European liquors, oils, salt and other articles. The economic

position of the Mysore artisan from his own choice continued to be one of isolation and like the agriculturist, he was unable to enter into any large combination for a common purpose. The same industries as were in existence in the early years of the Rendition such as metal industry, pottery, carpentry, textile fabrics continued without much change. No doubt in the early years of the Rendition a few factories came into existence such as the Woollen Manufactory, the Cotton Mill, the Tile Works and the Sugar Manufactory at Goribidnur. But most of these were under European management and afforded no evidence of progress of either technical knowledge or co-operative spirit among the people of the country. Attempts to encourage the manufacture of paper, the establishment of iron industry on a large scale, the spinning and weaving of silk by machinery did not produce any appreciable results.

To give an incentive to industries, a separate Mysore Section was organised in December 1904 in connection with the Bombay Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition held there. A number of exhibitors and artisans from some of the chief centres of manufacture were sent to Bombay to study the exhibits and the working of some of the industrial institutions there. A few influential ryots were also sent to acquaint themselves with the several improved patterns of agricultural implements exhibited there. In this year a commencement was made of holding rural exhibitions by organising a Cattle and Agricultural Show at Hiriyur on the occasion of the annual jatra or congregation of people to pay homage to the presiding deity of the place. Besides the local cattle and articles produced in the district, products from other parts of the State were also exhibited. There was also a collection of several varieties of manure, the composition and nature of which the exhibitors explained to the visitors. In the ploughing competitions, there were different kinds of ploughs at work to demonstrate their comparative merits.

## **CHAPTER XXVII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Various Administrative Improvements—1906-12.**

Sir P. N. Krishna Murthi laid down the office of Dewan on the 30th March 1906 and he was succeeded by V. P. Madhava Rao who continued in office for three years. This latter officer had retired from the Mysore Service in 1904 and was at the time he came back to Mysore holding the place of Dewan of Travancore. With Sir P. N. Krishna Murthi retired also his two colleagues who were Members of the State Council, viz., C. Srinivasa Iyengar and C. Madiah, their places being taken by T. Ananda Rao who was Revenue Commissioner at the time and Mr. K. P. Puttanna Chetty (afterwards Sir) who was a Deputy Commissioner. Ananda Rao was a son of Sir T. Madhava Rao, a famous Indian statesman of the bygone days, and had entered the Mysore Service as a probationer in November 1873 during the days of the British Commission. He was appointed Dewan in succession to Madhava Rao in March 1909. Mr. Puttanna Chetty had entered the Mysore Service in 1875 as a clerk in one of the Government offices and had been a Deputy Commissioner for some years, when he was chosen to fill the vacancy on the State Council. He was all along known as a strenuous worker and a man of upright conduct.

The new Dewan, Madhava Rao, took a somewhat pessimistic view of the finances of the State as they appeared to him at the time, although the Kaveri Power Scheme and the Bethamangala Water Works had both begun to yield incomes, the former from 1902-03 and the latter from 1906-07. Madhava Rao justified his view by stating that in the seven years from 1898-99 to 1904-05 the liabilities of the State had considerably increased under Savings Bank deposits and the Insurance Fund, while simultaneously the cash and invested reserves had considerably decreased from Rs. 140 lakhs in the beginning of 1898 to Rs. 43½ lakhs in 1905-06. He accordingly introduced certain remedial measures which, he considered, would set right the situation. Prior to the

year 1899, Savings Bank deposits were being received in the Government treasuries up to a maximum limit of Rs. 5000 on each individual account. In August of that year all limitation on the deposits was withdrawn, with the result that the deposits which stood at Rs. 38 lakhs on the last day of June 1899 rose to Rs. 95 lakhs at the close of 1905. A revised limit was now imposed in August 1906 fixing the maximum deposit at Rs. 2000 a year at 2 per cent instead of at  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent per annum, the total balance at the credit of an individual depositor not exceeding Rs. 5000 at any time. A sum of Rs. 48 lakhs was added to the reserve of the State from the additional revenue derived from the Kaveri Power Scheme and the Bethamangala Water Works. A Famine Reserve of Rs. 2 lakhs a year was created from 1906-07 to meet the expenditure on possible future famines without dislocating the normal finances. Madhava Rao justified the creation of this reserve, somewhat dubiously however, by stating that in a year of famine while heavy expenditure would be necessary on relief measures, the revenue resources of Government would be crippled and in the absence of a special provision for meeting the situation the Government would be forced to contract loans and to starve the administrative departments. In October 1912 which was the closing year of T. Ananda Rao's Dewanship the limits imposed on Savings Bank deposits were removed in response to the repeated demands of the people for affording facilities for investment.

#### **Change in the working of the Council.**

In 1906 a welcome change was introduced in the working of the State Council. The modified rules invested the members with a certain measure of administrative responsibility, the lack of which had been felt to be the chief reason why the new Consultative Council of 1902 had failed to fulfil the objects with which it was constituted. Under the revised rules the Members of the State Council, though not formally possessing any executive powers as such, were empowered in their respective departments to pass final orders in the name of the Government instead of merely recording their opinions on all ordinary matters which were not of sufficient importance to require reference to the Dewan or to the Council as a body.

### **Railways.**

In 1906 the construction of a light railway from Bangalore to Chikballapur which had been under discussion for some years past was undertaken by an indigenous private company, the first co-operative effort of its kind on a large scale. As an encouragement to such an undertaking, a guarantee of four per cent interest on the capital cost was sanctioned by Government. The contract for the working of the Mysore State lines by the Southern Mahratta Railway Company having terminated, a fresh agreement was concluded with the same company now known as the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company by the Secretary of State for India acting on behalf of the Durbar and this agreement came into effect from the 1st July 1908. Under this revised agreement, the Railway Company received a remuneration of 1/20 of the net earnings of all the lines as against one-fourth of the net earnings of the Mysore-Harihar line and nothing for the branch lines under the old contract.

### **Study of Forestry.**

The proper conservancy of forests received much attention during this period. In 1881 the total area of the State forest was 454 square miles. In 1904 it was 1950 miles exclusive of 1200 square miles of ghaut forest and 183 square miles of Kan forest. In 1906 two students were deputed for the study of forestry at the university of Oxford and five students to the college at Dehra Dun.

### **Sericulture.**

In the same year the Government took advantage of the existence of the Sericultural Farm at Bangalore started by the great philanthropist J. N. Tata to develop the practical side of sericulture and to make the farm a training-ground for persons interested in the industry. In 1908 arrangements were made for the Japanese silk-expert in charge of the farm to visit centres of silk industry and to give suitable advice on the selection of seed and the rearing of worms.

In 1907 was commenced the Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition during the period of the Dasara festivities at Mysore at

which agricultural and industrial products of the State and of places outside the State were exhibited and the use of the machinery and implements connected therewith were demonstrated and explained. The first Exhibition was held on the 5th October 1907 and in opening the same the Maharaja said that it was not to be expected that such Exhibitions would have an immediate or revolutionary influence on the agriculture and industries of the country. But they offered to all classes an opportunity of seeing what their neighbours were producing, to craftsmen they were of especial use in indicating the directions in which their skill might be most usefully directed, while distributors might learn from them of new markets on the one hand, and on the other, of new sources of supply. Whatever other disappointments might be in store, His Highness further said, of the educative value of these Exhibitions and of their far-reaching influence on the economics of the country there was no doubt.

### **Mining.**

In order to provide for the safety and well-being of the employees of mines and for preventing theft of and illicit traffic in mining materials including gold in various stages of extraction, a Regulation had been passed in 1897 known as the Mysore Mines Regulation. Being an enabling law, certain sections of this Regulation were applied only to a limited tract of the country round the Gold Fields in the Bowringpet taluk. The Regulation so far as it went, worked satisfactorily but was found defective when stolen gold in the shape of amalgam or sponge gold was converted into bar gold for which great facilities existed in and around the Gold Field areas. The necessity for bringing the unwrought gold or bar gold within the purview of the Regulation now forced itself on the notice of Government. A revised Regulation was accordingly brought into operation extending to unwrought gold also the presumption contained in the old Regulation that property of the description peculiar to the Mining industry when found in the possession of individuals in the Mining area was illegally obtained until the contrary was proved, which of course was an evident departure from the accepted maxims of criminal jurisprudence.



About the year 1907, many manganese deposits were discovered and a great rush for lands containing them took place on account of the success which had been achieved by the Mysore Manganese Company, Limited. It was felt that as this Company had been the pioneer of an industry new to the State, it required some protection. The Government accordingly decided to withhold the issue of further licences in the Shimoga district until the conditions of successfully working the mineral became clearly understood. But as a tentative measure, it was decided to permit manganese to be mined under prospecting licences for a period of three years without insisting on mining leases being taken out. A further consideration of the matter showed that where actual mining operations were going on involving a large outlay of capital, the issue of long period leases was undesirable and that the tying up of large areas under prospecting licences did not deserve encouragement. At this time, chrome also was sought after and a number of licences were issued for its mining.

#### **Irrigation.**

During the year 1906-07 the Marikanave Works were practically completed and water began to be supplied from that year to the lands below the reservoir. The Government tentatively sanctioned for this tract a system of levying differential water rates, regard being had to the nature of the crops which the occupants desired to raise and the quantity of water required for them. This measure was adopted to popularise wet cultivation among the people of the district who were unaccustomed to it.

#### **Veterinary Department.**

A Veterinary Department helpful to cattle-owners was established during the Dewanship of Madhava Rao. To start with, an inspector of cattle diseases was appointed whose duties consisted of the investigation of the nature of epidemic diseases among cattle, visits to localities where such diseases were prevalent and the adoption of measures for checking their ravages. He was also required to devote his attention to improve veterinary knowledge in rural parts by organising and encouraging local effort and by instructing the rural cattle doctors and large cattle-owners

in a scientific diagnosis of cattle diseases and a proper application of easily available indigenous drugs. In January 1908 a veterinary hospital was started in Bangalore and in May following, hospitals and dispensaries were opened at Mysore, Chickmagalur, Kolar and Hassan in furtherance of the scheme for a Civil Veterinary Department. The serum required to inoculate cattle was obtained from the Government of India Bacteriologist working at the Muktesar laboratory in the Punjab.

#### **Abolition of Halat.**

The Halat which was a tax on supari or arecanut which had been substituted in place of a share of produce payable to Government some years previously was abolished from the beginning of 1907. The decadence of the supari industry and the necessity of relieving it of the burden of this impost had been urged for many years past. The subject had engaged the attention of Government from 1891 and as the outcome of the investigations made by a special officer deputed for the purpose, some relief was given to the industry in the year 1896 by a reduction of assessment on supari gardens, but the Halat remained though felt as open to objection. Various considerations were regarded as standing in the way of its abolition, the chief of which was the supposed inability of the State to forego an item of revenue which yielded about Rs. 3½ lakhs annually. In 1905 Sir P. N. Krishna Murthi after a close study of the matter and after consultation with all those whose opinions were of any weight, placed the matter before the Maharaja with his own opinion and His Highness agreeing with his Dewan generously sanctioned the entire remission of this irksome levy. The remission of this was to have been announced at the meeting of the Representative Assembly in the Dasara of 1905. But it could not be done on account of some unexpected difficulties in the way. On V. P. Madhava Rao succeeding Sir P. N. Krishna Murthi, he took some time for the consideration of the subject once more, and it was not till 1907 that this much needed relief to the areca garden-owners was granted.

In the same year, an important change in the rules was made for the grant of land for coffee cultivation to help the poorer

cultivators by reducing the minimum area to be granted for cultivation from 15 to 5 acres.

### **The Legislative Council.**

A measure of considerable importance introduced during this period was the establishment of a Legislative Council which formally came into existence on the 22nd June 1907. In previous years, on several occasions the need for such a Council had been pressed on the attention of the Government, especially by the European coffee-planters. But as all changes in the laws which were in force at the time of the Rendition could only be made in consultation with the Government of India and introduced after their approval, a separate Legislative Council had been deemed unnecessary. As time went on however, the necessity of such a Council came to be felt and in March 1907 a Regulation was passed authorising its establishment. Before the establishment of this Council, all new legislative enactments as the need arose used to be passed by the State Council and then brought into force with the sanction of the Maharaja. The character and composition of the State Council, the smallness of its numbers and the want of publicity in its proceedings did not permit of the Bills being considered as fully and from as many points of view as sometimes their importance demanded. His Highness was therefore now pleased to sanction the formation of a Legislative Council and to appoint to it, besides a certain number of official members, a limited number of non-officials also who could bring their practical experience and knowledge of local conditions and requirements to bear on the discussion of the measures before the Council.

The Dewan, according to the enactment, was the President and the members of the State Council were Vice-Presidents ex-officio of this Council. There were to be not less than ten and not more than fifteen additional members, of whom not less than two-fifths were to be non-officials. The elective principle, however, was not adopted in the recruitment of the non-official members and instead the Representative Assembly was given the privilege of deputing two of its members to the Council.

**Tank Panchayet.**

The Tank Panchayet Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council on the 1st October 1908 by Mr. K. P. Puttanna Chetty who was then a Member of the State Council. The rules issued in 1873 and in 1887 had not produced any satisfactory results. In 1903 a committee was appointed to investigate the causes of this failure. This committee pointed out that though no material changes were needed in the rules as they stood, yet there were two circumstances which militated against their efficient working. The first was the want of a spirit of co-operation among the ryots and the second was the absence of sufficient inducements to make them take a real and personal interest in their tanks. The present Bill, in addition to educating the ryots to co-operate with one another, aimed also at creating in them an interest in the proper maintenance of their tanks. This it was intended to be done by the creation of a Panchayet, thereby allowing a certain measure of self-government to the ryots in respect of the tanks. The Bill did not relieve the ryots of any of their existing obligations, nor did it impose any additional obligations on them. All that it did was that it only altered the agency by which these obligations were enforced. In place of the purely official agency then existing, the Bill substituted the agency of Panchayets composed mostly of members elected by the ryots themselves. The Bill did not contemplate the constitution of Panchayets compulsorily in places where the villagers did not wish to have them, but the Panchayets were to be formed only in villages where not less than two-thirds of the inhabitants wished to have them; and even in these cases, discretion was left with the Government to accept the proposal or not, according as conditions for the favourable working of the scheme existed or not. As an immediate consequence of the constitution of a Panchayet in a village, the enforcement of the Tank Maintenance Rules became vested in the Panchayet; and as a corollary, the Panchayet became possessed of the power which hitherto vested in the village Patel and the hobli Shekdar or revenue inspector to apportion the work required for the maintenance of the tank or tanks in the village among the ryots according to their respective obligations. If a ryot failed to do the work that fell to his share or preferred to commute

his quota of labour into a money payment, it was to be open to the Panchayet to get the work done out of the funds at its disposal and recover the cost from the ryot. The Bill also proposed to transfer to the Panchayet the power to grant the beds of tanks for temporary cultivation of quick-growing crops. In order to avoid the waste of water that might be caused by different ryots commencing the sowing of wet crops at different times, the Bill also laid down that the Panchayet was to decide on the time when such sowing operations were to be commenced as well as to regulate the issue of water from the tank. A Tank Panchayet specially empowered by Government with the consent of a majority of not less than two-thirds of the ryots whose interests were affected in any year, having regard to the quantity of water available in the tank, were allowed to impose such restrictions as it considered necessary on wet cultivation below the tank. If in accordance with a decision of the Panchayet any holder of wet land was not allowed water to irrigate his land, the Bill proposed to allow a remission of half the assessment on the land. As regards the funds required by the Panchayet for the work, it was proposed that the money payments from the ryots in lieu of labour and a portion of the irrigation cess fund collected in the village were to be credited to a fund called the Tank Fund to be controlled by the Panchayet. As an additional inducement to the ryots to constitute Panchayets, it was also proposed that several items of receipts which were then credited to the general revenues of the State, such as the sale proceeds of the right of fishing in the tank and of the right of grazing in the tank bed were to be credited to the Tank Fund. The Bill also embodied that when the Panchayet undertook the work of construction, restoration or improvement, it was open to the Government to entrust to the Panchayet the stone and masonry work also which was to be done at the cost of Government. There was a general feeling everywhere that an attempt should be made to revive the ancient indigenous institution of the Village Panchayet. The scheme proposed in the Bill was an attempt in that direction.

The Bill as revised by the Select Committee finally came up before a meeting of the Legislative Council on the 22nd November

1910 and was passed into law and came into operation from February 1911.

It may be stated that the Royal Commission on Decentralisation in India whose report was issued after the introduction of the above Bill in the Mysore Legislative Council, in expressing their views on village organisation suggested the gradual establishment of Village Panchayets by beginning with those villages in which the circumstances were most favourable by reason of homogeneity, natural intelligence and freedom from internal feuds and by conferring on them only certain limited powers at the commencement which the Mysore Bill more or less anticipated.

Notwithstanding all the efforts made to establish village autonomy in the management of the tank, it may be stated that the scheme has been attended with somewhat indifferent success till now.

#### **Completion of Palace reconstruction.**

In 1910 the reconstruction of the Palace on account of the old building having been destroyed by fire in 1897 was practically completed and it became possible for the Maharaja to hold the Dasara durbars amid the old historic surroundings after an interval of 13 years. The design of the new Palace had been entrusted to Henry Irwin who built the Viceregal Lodge in Simla. The Palace was built throughout of massive stone including fine granite, porphyry and marble, all from local quarries and its construction led to the assemblage of a large number of skilled craftsmen—masons, carvers in wood and stone, and marble inlayers from Agra and other places. The decoration of the durbar hall was entrusted to the Travancore artist Ravi Varma and his brother Raja Varma.

#### **The Kannambadi Reservoir.**

During Dewan Ananda Rao's time, the proposal to construct a large reservoir across the Kaveri at Kannambadi took shape in the year 1911. The main object of this reservoir was to provide irrigation for perennial crops for which till then there had been no satisfactory provision in that valley and to protect the supply of

electric power by impounding some of the water which was then going to waste into the sea, and along with the canals when completed, the reservoir was expected to prove a large protective work which would materially minimise the evil effects of a famine. The construction of the dam was started in November 1911. In the first stage, it was intended to raise the dam to a height of 97 feet with weir crest at 80 feet above the river bed with a storage of a little over 11,000 million cubic feet of water. This first stage of the work was estimated to cost Rs. 91 lakhs.

### **Public Health.**

A Department of Public Health was formed in the year 1906-07. The Government had spent large sums of money in combating the plague from the time the disease broke out in 1898 and the necessity had shown itself for the formation of a separate Health Department to overcome such diseases in a systematic manner. Special health officers were appointed for the cities of Bangalore, Mysore and Kolar Gold Fields. A laboratory also was provided for the Health Department.

### **Medicine.**

At the same time, the Government felt that while extending medical aid on western lines, it was equally the duty of a Native State to encourage also the indigenous systems of medicine, Ayurvedic and Unani. Accordingly a scheme was introduced for imparting instruction in these systems by qualified professors. Arrangements were also made for the teaching of Anatomy and Physiology in the new institution.

### **The Newspaper Regulation.**

In 1908 an enactment known as the Mysore Newspaper Regulation was passed into law which created much uneasiness in the country. The Regulation required every printer, publisher and editor of a newspaper to obtain the permission of the Government before starting the same and provided also for any permission granted being withdrawn at any time. Certain penalties were also provided for the cases in which papers were published without permission or after such permission had been revoked. Some of

the provisions of this Regulation were regarded by the public as very drastic and Madhava Rao in his speech to the Representative Assembly in the same year put forth a long defence, although it did not quite allay the apprehensions entertained regarding the scope and character of the enactment. "As regards the Newspaper Regulation, there is," said the Dewan, "nothing to be alarmed about. It is not contended that the legislation gives more powers to the Government than were already inherent in the Maharaja. But objection has been taken by our critics to the power to refuse permission and withdraw it when once granted being reserved to the executive Government. This objection, however, assumes that the Government of His Highness the Maharaja will exercise power arbitrarily on the least provocation and that the press will be exposed to the petty tyranny of officials dressed in brief authority. I have already assured the public that the Government would always be glad to have their acts criticised with as much freedom as the critics like, provided that the criticisms stopped short of disseminating absolute falsehoods and deliberate perversions of facts likely to be prejudicial to the interests of the State. The Government of His Highness have never shrunk from giving publicity to their acts and the opening of the Press Room and the public discussion of questions in this very Assembly than which there is not a body in the whole of India better representing the people of a State will convince you that such is their attitude. There is a misapprehension still prevailing even in the minds of otherwise well-informed persons that the refusal or withdrawal of permission under the Regulation may depend upon the whims and caprices of individual officers. In regard to this, I may assure you that such a fear is quite groundless and that all such cases will be treated as scheduled cases under the rules of business which have to be considered by the State Council and submitted to His Highness the Maharaja for his orders. This is what has been done in the past and this will invariably be done in the future also..... Government would have been glad if it was possible to do so, to lay down rules for regulating their action under the Regulation. But I think you will admit that it is extremely difficult to bring under rules all the circumstances that would justify Government taking action



under the Regulation. All that it is possible to say is that the Regulation will not be put into force in regard to any newspaper, unless the character of the publication is such that its continuance is undesirable in the interests of the State or in the cause of public morality."

### **Education.**

In 1908 the erection of buildings needed to locate the Tata Institute was commenced and the Maharaja's Government gave a special grant of Rs. 5 lakhs towards the cost.

To bring the rudiments of education within the reach of all in rural parts, the levy of school fees was abolished in all village Elementary Schools from October 1907. The fees levied in the Lower Secondary classes maintained in such schools and in the vernacular classes of Anglo-Vernacular schools were also abolished and elementary education in all Government schools was thus made entirely free. In the year 1908 a beginning was made to introduce moral and religious teaching in Government schools. A departmental conference was held to draw up curricula for this teaching and suitable text-books were selected and prescribed.

In April 1909 in response to the representations made in the Assembly from time to time, a scheme for the constitution of Benches of Honorary Magistrates was introduced and as a first step, two such courts were formed in Bangalore and Mysore as a tentative measure.

### **The Co-operative Movement.**

By 1907 the Co-operative Movement became known all over the State and popular interest in it was aroused. The movement at this time also received the active support and keen sympathy of several retired officers of Government and among the early pioneers, the names of Dewan Bahadur C. Srinivasa Iyengar who had retired from the State Council, M. S. Narayana Rao who had retired as a Deputy Commissioner and C. D. Ramaswamaiya a retired Superintendent of Police came in for honourable mention. In this year a Central Co-operative Bank was started at Bangalore for supplying funds to the various outlying societies and the

Maharaja generously placed a large sum of money as fixed deposit in the Bank to mark his appreciation of the usefulness of such an institution. About this time, Mr. R. Ranga Rao a graduate of promise was deputed to England to go through a course of study at the London School of Economics with special reference to co-operative credit and types of co-operative institutions in the continental countries of Europe, where the movement had achieved marked success.

The Maharaja on the 5th October 1907 when he opened the Dasara Exhibition of that year lent further support to the Co-operative Movement by personally commending it to the public in his speech. "I make no apology," said His Highness, "for drawing your attention to the existence of the Co-operative Societies Regulation and of a highly qualified officer specially deputed to advise and assist those who desire to take advantage of its provisions. I have little doubt in my own mind that the main difficulty which at present prevents large classes of the community from successful competition in industrial and other enterprises is the deficiency of organised capital and the want of confidence between man and man, of which that deficiency was in no small measure the result. Under the co-operative system, any local body of craftsmen or agriculturists, however poor and however limited in numbers, has the means of acquiring gradually and from small beginnings sufficient capital to provide for immediate needs and for future progress, and I would urge on all educated and enlightened men, whether immediately connected or not with agriculture, crafts or commerce, the duty of promoting these societies to the extent of their ability. Apart from the material return which is their immediate object, such societies have in every country where they have taken root proved great moral educators and promoters of mutual confidence, self-reliance and honest enterprise."

By 1911 the number of societies increased to more than 200, and during the Dasara festival of that year a conference was held at Mysore which was attended by co-operators from all parts of the State numbering about 300. Sri Narasimharaja Wodeyar the

Yuvaraja opened the conference. His Highness in the course of a speech characterised by great earnestness described the advantages of Co-operation in these words:—"Various expedients have been tried in the past for bringing together capital and labour to the greatest advantage of the community at large. Western countries such as Germany, Denmark, England have found out by experience that the best method of doing this is by a co-operation of the workers for purposes of mutual benefit. This idea of co-operation is based on the great principle of self-help and combination..... Self-help and combination for mutual benefit are, in fact, essential for our advancement as a community and Co-operative Societies bring these two forces together for our economic advantage, a thing which the most ignorant person can understand, work for and profit by..... A conference like this will focus experience, elucidate matters of doubt, and give a fresh impetus to the movement..... The Co-operative Movement demands in almost every village willing and intelligent workers who will take the trouble to understand the principles of co-operation and carry them into practice. Have we not patriotism enough? Are we not anxious to improve the lives and promote the welfare of our ignorant brethren? Do we not all admire beneficent action and practical work for the good of others? Then let us all give some of our time, thought and energies to promoting the Co-operative Movement which is so certain to improve the welfare of the poverty-stricken masses around us. There is no industrial movement higher and more worthy of attention than this one of co-operation. I see in it a field in which the members of every village community can train themselves in habits of business and the management of their own affairs. I cannot too earnestly impress on you all that it rests with the people themselves to make the Co-operative Movement a permanent success....."

#### **Economic Conference.**

About the year 1911 when the results achieved in the fields of agriculture, industry and commerce were reviewed, it was felt that without more vigorous efforts on reformed lines the country must remain economically backward for a long period to come. With a

view to bring together the non-officials as well as the officers of the Government in the deliberations connected with the economic progress of the State, the Maharaja directed the formation of an Economic Conference to keep up a sustained interest in the numerous questions relating to economic progress by a constant interchange of views.

The first session of the conference was held at the public offices at Mysore during the Birthday Week on the 10th June 1911 and the two succeeding days, and the Maharaja inaugurated the conference personally with a speech from which the following are extracts:—"It will be your privilege at this first session to consider measures for the economic development of the country..... With the growth of communications and the increasing use of steam and electricity, questions of economic interest are assuming new aspects closely associated with the well-being of the people. The need for greater attention to industrial and commercial development is beginning to be recognised in British India. We have also therefore to give increasing attention to our economic problems..... The economic inefficiency of our people will be patent to any one who looks beneath the surface of things ..... In the more advanced countries of Europe, it is stated that the earning power of the people averages Rs. 400 or more per head per annum. In England it is taken at Rs. 600 to Rs. 700 per head. In India we have it on high authority that the average income per head does not exceed Rs. 30. As regards education, the proportion of the entire population who can read and write is over 90 per cent in the United Kingdom and Germany and over 80 in Japan. In Mysore the corresponding proportion is only 5 per cent. The average death-rate in Mysore is about the same as in the neighbouring British Provinces, that is, over 30 for every 1000 of the population. The corresponding death-rate in England and Germany is as low as 15 to 18 per 1000. The comparison under the above three heads forcibly brings to light the extent of poverty, ignorance and low vitality prevailing in our midst and is a striking reminder of the economic inefficiency of our people..... 'That country is the most prosperous which has the least number of

useless or unemployed people' is, I understand, a common saying in Europe..... Education is the sovereign remedy for all economic evils. Agriculture which is our staple industry should be practised on more scientific lines. Manufactures and trades the chief instruments for increasing wealth should be specially encouraged.... We cannot hope to succeed if we continue to work with antiquated tools and old-fashioned business methods..... The number of questions requiring attention is so large that officials single-handed can do very little for their solution. The non-officials will require guidance and further have not had experience and opportunities of co-operation for public good on a large scale. This conference will bring officials and non-officials together and there will be committees and sub-committees formed to carry on its work throughout the year..... We want earnest workers. It is our desire to reach all people who desire to co-operate. The aim we have in view, namely, the economic security and vital efficiency of the people must appeal to every right-thinking person." At this opening conference three committees were formed relating to Education, Agriculture, and Industries and Commerce and certain questions were referred to them for detailed consideration and the preparation of schemes for being placed before the next conference.

By about the Dasara of 1912 the objects of the conference became widely known among the people and the committee for industries and commerce was strengthened. His Highness' Government at this time also engaged the services of Mr. A. Chatterton (afterwards Sir), officer in charge of the Pumping and Boring operations and the Bureau of Industrial Information in Madras, and under him six special officers were appointed to work. An industrial survey of the State was also started at the same time under a special officer appointed for the purpose. District committees were formed in the districts and funds were placed at their disposal for small establishments, experiments and contingencies. The industries and commerce committee paid attention to a large number of subjects such as the improvement of silk and silk goods, tanning, hand-weaving, sandalwood-carving, lacquerware, manufacture of toys, the manufacture of tiles. The most promising of

these from the point of view of production of wealth in the State was the silk industry, the export of silk and silk goods in favourable years being valued at over a crore of rupees. One of the first steps which the industries and commerce committee considered necessary for the promotion of industries was the provision of suitable facility for financing enterprises within the limits of the State and accordingly proposed the establishment of a State-aided Bank.

In order to encourage the formation of District Agricultural Associations, the agricultural committee made grants of sums varying from Rs. 70 to Rs. 250 to the agricultural associations in the districts of Mysore, Kolar, Tumkur, Hassan and Kadur. The subject of improving sericulture engaged the serious attention of this committee. A number of scholarships was allotted for training students in the Tata's Silk Farm at Bangalore. A dozen students were sent to the Lal Bagh at Bangalore to learn Horticulture. Steps were also taken to institute an enquiry into the subject of the indebtedness of the Mysore ryot and his general economic condition and to more largely popularise the Co-operative Movement among the agricultural classes. This committee also issued from time to time leaflets in English and Kanada on subjects coming within its sphere.

The committee for education prepared a Bill for the introduction of compulsory education as well as a revised Grant-in-aid Code. This committee also recommended, as a preliminary step to the establishment of a Mysore University, the improvement of college hostels and libraries, the provision of honours courses and the grant of diplomas. A special grant of Rs. 2 lakhs was provided for the extension of primary education, of which Rs. 1 lakh was for opening new schools and improving the existing ones and the other lakh was for school buildings.

## **CHAPTER XXVIII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

**Anniversary of Queen Victoria's Proclamation—  
Visit of Lord and Lady Minto to the State—Death of  
Edward VII—Accession to the throne of George V—  
Coronation Durbar at Delhi.**

On the 2nd November 1908 the 50th anniversary of Queen Victoria's historic Proclamation of 1858 issued after the suppression of the Indian Mutiny was celebrated throughout the State, and durbars were held at all district headquarter towns and the Royal Proclamation was read to all the assembled citizens in English and in the vernaculars. In commemoration of the event, the poor were fed and clothed and sports and treats arranged for school children. The following message of His Majesty the King-Emperor to the Princes and People of India was reprinted in the official Gazette in English and Kanada and copies of the same were widely distributed in the State:—"It is now fifty years since Queen Victoria, my Beloved Mother and my August Predecessor on the Throne of these Realms, for divers weighty reasons, with the advice and consent of Parliament, took upon herself the Government of the territories theretofore administered by the East India Company. I deem this a fitting anniversary on which to greet the Princes and peoples of India in commemoration of the exalted task then solemnly undertaken. Half a century is but a brief span in your long annals; yet this half century that ends to-day will stand amid the floods of your historic ages, a far-shining land-mark. The Proclamation of the direct supremacy of the Crown sealed the unity of Indian Government and opened a new era. The journey was arduous and the advance may have sometimes seemed slow; but the incorporation of many strangely diversified communities and of some three hundred millions of the human race, under British guidance and control, has proceeded steadfastly and without pause. We survey our labours of the past half century with clear gaze and good conscience.

“Difficulties such as attend all human rule in every age and place have risen up from day to day. They have been faced by the servants of the British Crown with toil and courage and patience, with deep counsel and a resolution that has never faltered nor shaken. If errors have occurred, the agents of my Government have spared no pains and no self-sacrifice to correct them; if abuses have been proved, vigorous hands have laboured to apply a remedy.

“No secret of empire can avert the scourge of drought and plague, but experienced administrators have done all that skill and devotion are capable of doing to mitigate those dire calamities of nature. For a longer period than was ever known in your land before, you have escaped the dire calamities of war within your borders. Internal peace has been unbroken.

“In the great Charter of 1858, Queen Victoria gave you noble assurance of her earnest desire to stimulate the peaceful industry of India, to promote works of public utility and improvement, and to administer the Government for the benefit of all resident therein. The schemes that have been diligently framed and executed for promoting your material convenience and advance—schemes unsurpassed in their magnitude and their boldness—bear witness before the world to the zeal with which that benignant promise has been fulfilled.

“The rights and privileges of the Feudatory Princes and Ruling Chiefs have been respected, preserved and guarded; and the loyalty of their allegiance has been unswerving. No man among my subjects has been favoured, molested, or disquieted by reason of his religious belief or worship. All men have enjoyed protection of the law. The law itself has been administered without disrespect to creed or caste, or to usages and ideas rooted in your civilization; it has been simplified in form and its machinery adjusted to the requirements of ancient communities slowly entering a new world.

“The charge confided to my Government concerns the destinies of countless multitudes of men now and for ages to come;



and it is a paramount duty to repress with a stern arm guilty conspiracies that have no just cause and no serious aim. These conspiracies I know to be abhorrent to the loyal and faithful character of the vast hosts of my Indian subjects, and I will not suffer them to turn me aside from my task of building up the fabric of security and order.

“Unwilling that this historic anniversary should pass without some signal mark of Royal clemency and grace, I have directed that, as was ordered on the memorable occasion of the Coronation Durbar in 1903, the sentences of persons whom our Courts have duly punished for offences against the law should be remitted or in various degrees reduced; and it is my wish that such wrong-doers may remain mindful of this act of mercy and may conduct themselves without offence henceforth.

“Steps are being continuously taken towards obliterating distinctions of race as the test for access to posts of public authority and power. In this path I confidently expect and intend the progress henceforward to be steadfast and sure, as education spreads, experience ripens, and the lessons of responsibility are well learned by the keen intelligence and apt capabilities of India.

“From the first, the principle of representative institutions began to be gradually introduced, and the time has come when, in the judgment of my Viceroy and Governor-General and others of my counsellors, that principle may be prudently extended. Important classes among you representing ideas that have been fostered and encouraged by British rule, claim equality of citizenship and greater share in legislation and government. The politic satisfaction of such a claim will strengthen, not impair, existing authority and power. Administration will be all the more efficient, if the officers who conduct it have greater opportunities of regular contact with those whom it affects and with those who influence and reflect common opinion about it. I will not speak of the measures that are now being diligently framed for these objects. They will speedily be made known to you and will, I am very confident, mark a notable stage in the beneficent progress of your affairs,

"I recognise the valour and fidelity of my Indian troops, and at the New Year I have ordered that opportunity should be taken to show in substantial form this, my high appreciation, of their martial instincts, their splendid discipline, and their faithful readiness of service.

"The welfare of India was one of the objects dearest to the heart of Queen Victoria. By me, ever since my visit in 1875, the interests of India, its Princes and peoples have been watched with an affectionate solicitude that time cannot weaken. My dear son the Prince of Wales and the Princess of Wales returned from their sojourn among you with warm attachment to your land and true and earnest interest in its well-being and content. These sincere feelings of active sympathy and hope for India on the part of my Royal House and line only represent, and they do most truly represent, the deep and united will and purpose of the people of this Kingdom.

"May Divine protection and favour strengthen the wisdom and mutual goodwill that are needed for the achievement of a task as glorious as was ever committed to rulers and subjects in any state of Empire of recorded time."

In November 1909 Lord and Lady Minto paid a visit to the State. During their stay of a fortnight they visited the celebrated Gersoppa Falls, the historic place of Seringapatam, the Kunigal Stud Farm and the Kolar Gold Fields. They also witnessed the Khedda operations for the capture of elephants at the Kakankote jungles. Their Excellencies met with a most loyal and enthusiastic welcome everywhere in the course of their visit.

At the banquet given in honour of his distinguished guest on the 25th November 1909, the Maharaja said:—"..... The four years which have elapsed since Your Excellency came to India have been years of strenuous work and grave anxiety. A wave of sedition and anarchy has swept over the Indian Empire, and the Government of India have had no light task in grappling with these insidious foes and maintaining that law and order which have always been the watch word of British rule in India.....

I can assure Your Excellency that the efforts of the Government of India to maintain its authority have always had my sincere sympathy and that I am and always have been ready to co-operate to the utmost of my power in furthering these efforts. Your Excellency needs no assurance of my own loyalty to the King-Emperor and as regards my people, I take this opportunity of publicly expressing my conviction that they are actuated by nothing but friendly feelings towards the British race and loyal sentiments towards the Paramount Power. Happily, therefore, it has not been necessary for my Government to adopt any repressive measures except to arm ourselves, as a matter of precaution, with summary powers against a small but irresponsible section of the public press..... Their existence is in itself sufficient to keep in check the evil against which they are aimed and I trust it may never be necessary to enforce them rigorously."

The Ophthalmic Hospital at Bangalore constructed later was named after Lord Minto in commemoration of his visit to the State.

The sad news of the demise of Edward VII was received in India on 7th May 1910 and caused great regret throughout the country as a powerful factor for the preservation of the peace of Europe was thereby lost. In announcing this great calamity which had befallen the empire, the Maharaja directed that all public offices, courts and schools in the State should be closed for five days from that date. All flags were ordered to be hoisted half-mast high and sixty-eight minute guns were fired at the Palaces at Mysore and Bangalore.

The Viceroy announced on 9th May 1910 that His Majesty King George V had been proclaimed King of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and Emperor of India and this was communicated to the people of Mysore on the same date under a salute of 101 guns. The Proclamation of His Majesty's accession to the throne and the declaration made by him subsequent to it was read at the Residency at Bangalore on the 12th May 1910 in the presence of the officers of the Mysore and British Governments and the principal citizens of the City and the Civil and Military Station,

The coronation of the King-Emperor was celebrated at Delhi on 12th December 1911 and in response to the invitation of the Viceroy the Maharaja was present at the Imperial Durbar held there. His Highness was accompanied by the Yuvaraja and by the principal officers and Sirdars of the State as well as a few leading non-official gentlemen. The great event was also celebrated throughout the State in a manner befitting the occasion.

## **CHAPTER XXIX.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

**Sir M. Visvesvaraya appointed Dewan—Visit of Lord Hardinge—Conclusion of the treaty of 1913—Yuvaraja appointed Extraordinary Member of the State Council.**

T. Ananda Rao on whom the title of C. I. E. had been conferred by the British Government was also honoured with the title of Pradhana Siromani by the Maharaja before his retirement from the Dewanship which took place on the 10th November 1912. Mr. M. Visvesvaraya (afterwards Sir) who was Chief Engineer of Mysore at the time became his successor. Sir M. Visvesvaraya was born in 1861 at Mokshagundam a village in the Mysore State and received his early education in the Government school at Chikballapur and took the B.A. Degree from the Central College, Bangalore. He then joined the Poona College of Science and won a guaranteed appointment as an Assistant Engineer under the Bombay Government in 1884. In 1895 he designed and carried out the water works of Sukkur Municipality in Sind. In 1898 he visited China and Japan and in 1901 he gave evidence before the Indian Irrigation Commission. He designed and constructed automatic gates patented by him at Lake Fife storage reservoir for the Moota Canal and the source of water supply to the Poona City. He also introduced a new system in 1903 and represented the Bombay Government at the Simla Irrigation Commission in 1904. In 1906 he was deputed to Aden to advise the executive committee of the Aden Settlement with regard to certain sanitary matters. He also visited Egypt, Canada, the United States of America and Russia in 1908. He retired from the British Service in 1909, when he was appointed Chief Engineer of Mysore. He soon established a name as a strenuous worker for the good of the State and his extensive knowledge of the world, combined with his abilities, soon came to be regarded as an asset which could be utilised for larger purposes. The Maharaja accordingly broke the old tradition of drawing the Dewans of the State always from the Revenue and Executive Services of the Government and appointed Sir M.

Visvesvaraya as his Dewan in 1912. Sir M. Visvesvaraya was also the first Dewan who had no connection with the old Mysore Commission, though he had his training under the British Government.

Lord Hardinge, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and Lady Hardinge paid a visit to the State in November 1913. Their stay in the State lasted from the 3rd to 21st November and included visits to the Gersoppa Falls, Mysore, Seringapatam, the Kheddas, Bangalore and the Kolar Gold Fields. Lord Hardinge's visit was made memorable by His Excellency's announcement of a new treaty of Mysore in place of what was called in 1881 the Instrument of Transfer. We have seen that when Chamaraja Wodeyar was installed in power, a document known as the Instrument of Transfer signed by Lord Ripon, then Governor-General, was placed in His Highness' hands as his authority to rule the country. Subsequently it became noticeable that the position actually held by the Maharaja as the ruler of a first class Native State was not the same as what the Instrument of Transfer appeared to assign to him. At the State Banquet held on the 6th of November, Lord Hardinge announced that it had been decided to replace the Instrument of Transfer by a formal treaty between the British Government and the Maharaja, the terms of which were agreed to by both the parties. "..... After a very careful consideration of the question, I have decided with the concurrence of His Majesty's Secretary of State for India," said Lord Hardinge, "to substitute for the Instrument of Transfer a new treaty which will place the relations between us on a footing more in consonance with Your Highness' actual position among the Feudatory Chiefs in India. His Majesty's Government in accepting my proposal have observed that Your Highness' views on this question were stated with much force and moderation and that they derive additional weight from the high character and reputation which Your Highness has always borne. With this observation I desire to associate myself in the fullest degree and I look on it as a particularly happy circumstance that it should have fallen to my lot to convey to Your Highness on this occasion so striking a proof of the esteem and regard in which

you are held by those responsible for the government of the empire." This announcement, coming as it did from so popular a Viceroy as Lord Hardinge whose escape from a cruel bomb outrage in the previous year had caused universal rejoicing in India and nowhere more so than in the Mysore State, added doubly to the pleasure the visit gave both to the Maharaja as well as to His Highness' subjects.

On the day following the banquet, the Maharaja acknowledged in writing the gratitude felt both by himself and his people for the grant of the treaty:—"It is difficult for me to express in words," said His Highness, "my gratitude for the gracious and generous act of Your Excellency's Government in granting a treaty to Mysore to replace the Instrument of Transfer under which Mysore was restored to my father's rule thirty-two years ago. I can only assure Your Excellency that I value very highly not only the gift of the treaty itself but the trust and confidence in my Government which the grant of the new treaty implies. I could wish for no greater reward for my efforts to maintain a high standard of administration than the gracious words of praise and encouragement which have fallen from Your Excellency's lips. Not only will the new treaty be welcomed by all classes of my people, but it will draw still closer the bond of gratitude and loyalty which has always united us to the British Government and will also be regarded as a signal proof of the sympathy and generosity which have always marked the policy of the Supreme Government towards Native States." The treaty was formally executed at Mysore on the 26th November following between the Maharaja and Sir Hugh Daly, the British Resident in Mysore at the time, acting on behalf of the Governor-General who later ratified the same.

The terms in the new treaty are not strikingly different from those contained in the Instrument of Transfer. The new treaty has, however, this merit that while the Instrument of Transfer was a one-sided document, the treaty of 1913 is a document concluded by two parties both able to realise the significance of their actions. Article 22 of the Instrument of Transfer underwent a little modification by limiting the very wide scope which it gave to the

Governor-General to interfere in all the internal concerns of the State generally. Article 23 of the Instrument of Transfer relating to the resumption of the State by the British Government in certain contingencies was entirely omitted. The general prohibition to repair fortresses or strongholds contained in Article 7 of the old Instrument was made applicable only to repairs for military purposes.

The Yuvaraja, Narasimharaja Wodeyar, now became a dominant personality in the State next to the Maharaja. The Yuvaraja was born in June 1888 and joined the Mayo College at Ajmer in November 1903 when he was a little over 15 years old. But he was obliged to discontinue his studies in that college a few months after on account of illness and returned to Mysore in April 1904. At Mysore a special institution was organised and the young prince received very careful education at the hands of private tutors specially engaged for the purpose. On completing his education, he was appointed Military Secretary to the Maharaja and worked in that capacity for some time. In the early part of 1913 he started on a European tour with a staff of three officers and with his cousin Balaraj Urs and returned in October after spending about six months in that continent. In this travel the Yuvaraja visited a large number of institutions both on the continent as well as in England, studying the varied activities of the countries he passed through. He was accorded a cordial reception wherever he went and returned filling his mind with rich experience and possessed of an ardent desire to work for the uplift of the people. After his return from Europe, in order to give His Highness a larger scope for the exercise of his abilities as well as to enable him to obtain a deeper insight into the working of the Government machinery, he was appointed in 1914 as an Extraordinary Member of the State Council.



## **CHAPTER XXX.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Part played by Mysore in the German War.**

We have seen that on the occasion of the visit of His late Majesty King George V (then Prince of Wales) in January 1906 to Mysore, the Maharaja expressed a hope that the Mysore Imperial Service troops may some day have an opportunity of showing their spirit by being associated in the fight for the defence of the empire whenever it might come. Such a contingency arose in 1914 when the great German War was launched and almost all the important countries of the world were ranged on one side or the other. This war lasted for a little over four years and caused the greatest havoc that the world has witnessed. For the first time in the history of India the Indian troops conveyed to France stood face to face with a highly organised European enemy and successfully resisted them in their own continent. The troops of Native States who had on account of long-established peace in India come to be looked upon as fit only for pompous parades and ceremonial shows quickly proved their mettle when the opportunity they longed for presented itself.

In August 1914 the Maharaja intimated to the Viceroy that he felt that at that time of danger, it was the duty of all the feudatory States and also of the people of the British Empire as a whole to stand shoulder to shoulder for the defence of the empire and offered the services of the Mysore troops as well as a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs to the Indian War Fund. This offer of men and money created a profound impression all over India and England. At a meeting of the Indian Legislative Council, Lord Hardinge the Viceroy commended this striking and patriotic offer by His Highness whose loyalty, generosity and liberal views, he said, were so well-known. The Marquess of Crewe, the then Secretary of State for India, speaking in the House of Lords referred in appreciative terms to the splendid offer, as he called, of the Maharaja of Mysore,

The Mysore regiment consisting of 29 officers, 444 non-commissioned officers and men with 526 horses, 49 mules and 132 followers left Bangalore on the 13th October 1914 under the command of Regimentdar B. Chamaraja Urs. Major M. H. Henderson accompanied the regiment as special service officer and Colonel J. Desaraja Urs as the representative of the Durbar. Fifteen draughts of reinforcements aggregating 3 officers, 426 other ranks and 49 followers were despatched to the field subsequently from time to time. The Mysore Transport Corps was mobilised for active service in 1915. Six detachments of the corps consisting of 12 officers, 321 ranks, 49 followers, with 210 carts, 468 bullocks, 7 mules and 35 ponies were despatched in September 1916 under the command of Furzulla Khan. To keep the corps up to strength, nine draughts of reinforcements consisting of four officers, 133 ranks and 37 followers with bullocks were also sent.

To meet the local and Imperial demands in regard to man power, a Central Recruitment Committee was constituted in the State. A director of recruiting was appointed and district recruiting agencies were organised. Though the difficulties to be surmounted were great, nearly the whole of the required number of recruits 5000 were secured before the termination of the war.

Early in 1915 a separate fund was also started for providing the Mysore troops at the front with articles of comfort and also to relieve want and distress among the members of their families left behind. The idea emanated from the Yuvaraja who was a Member of the State Council at this time in charge, among others, of the military portfolio and who evinced keen interest in all matters connected with the war. Arrangements were also made for awarding speedily special pensions and gratuities to those disabled in service and to the families of those who lost their lives, for securing fresh recruits for the army, for enlisting the aid of the public and for various other matters. All this work meant of course, constant thought and involved also heavy strain, which the Yuvaraja willingly faced. As an encouragement to the men at the front, a spirited message conveying the best wishes of His Highness the Maharaja, the Royal family and of the people of

Mysore was printed and copies were sent for distribution among all officers, men and followers at the front: "At this hour of supreme struggle of the British Empire and its Allies," said the message, "you enjoy the great honour of forming a part, however small, of the magnificent army which is fighting for the cause of liberty and righteousness. We have heard with keen pleasure and pride of your heroic conduct in the field and of your brilliant successes. We have no doubt that whatever the duty assigned to you, you will do it in such a way as will add fresh lustre to the country and uphold the high traditions of Mysore for loyalty and devotion to the Crown of England. Day by day and minute by minute, you are present in our thoughts and our prayers. Those dear to you whom you have left behind are our sacred charge until you return victorious. Remember always in whatever you do that the fair name and honour of Mysore are in your keeping and that, to an Indian, honour is dearer and far more precious than life. Have firm faith in Providence and in the justness of our cause and by the grace of Almighty God you shall be safe and successful."

The Mysore Imperial Service Regiment had three engagements with the enemy in the Suez Canal Zone in November 1915 and took part in the attack on Gaza in Palestine in November 1917. They did excellent work both in the battle of Gaza and in the subsequent pursuit. In the latter half of 1918 the regiment was placed in the firing line and in the last action of Aleppo on 26th October 1918 the regiment suffered serious casualties. In addition to the excellent work carried out by them in active operations against enemy outposts, they were also employed on the arduous task of constructing strong field works for the defence of the Suez Canal and in guarding important and valuable points in the lines of communications. In every case they carried out the tasks allotted to them to the entire satisfaction of General Sir John Maxwell, Commander-in-Chief, Egyptian Expeditionary Force, as was reported by him to the Commander-in-Chief in India. In the victory of Gaza and subsequent pursuit of the enemy the Mysore Lancers were often under heavy fire. But there was not a single instance of shirking or alarm and it was acknowledged that they

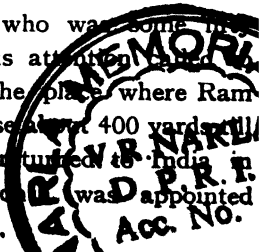
had acquitted themselves as if they had been old and tried soldiers. In December 1917 the Commander-in-Chief of the army in Palestine on the completion of the operations resulting in the capture of Beersheba and Gaza specially commended the good work done by the Mysore Lancers. In a despatch from General Sir Edmund Allenby, dated the 31st October 1918, dealing with the operations which resulted in the destruction of the Turkish army, the liberation of Palestine and Syria and the occupation of Damascus and Aleppo, special reference was made to the work of the Mysore Lancers in the field. Dealing with the capture of Haifa, General Allenby stated that two miles from the Haifa, Rhode, in the passes between the spur of Mount Carmell on the left and the marshy banks of river Kishon on the right, the fifth Cavalry Division reaching this point on the 23rd September was shelled from the slopes of Mount Carmell and found the road and the river crossings defended by numerous machine guns. While Mysore Lancers cleared the rocky slopes of Mount Carmell, the Jodhpur Lancers charged through the defile and riding over the enemy machine guns galloped into the town, where a number of Turks were speared in the streets and a large number of prisoners taken.

The Mysore Imperial Service Transport Corps which was sent to Mesopotamia for active service turned out much useful work. Landing at Basra early in October 1916, they were at first employed on convoy work on the lines of communication. The Corps was subsequently concentrated for work at Shaik Saad and beyond and early in 1917 was employed in clearing the battle fields of Sanniaya and Hai. The Corps was unfortunate in losing their Commandant Furzulla Khan who died in hospital in July 1917.

Where all acquitted themselves with distinguished gallantry, it is difficult to make a selection of individual heroes. However, a few names may be mentioned. Commandant A. T. Thyagaraj of the Transport Corps was specially mentioned in the despatches for gallantry and devotion to duty and was awarded the title of 'Captain' by His Highness the Maharaja. Jamadar Abdul Gaffar

Khan of the Imperial Lancers while serving in Egypt showed great coolness and gallantry under very heavy fire while leading on the 25th October 1918 his squadron in a charge against a strongly held enemy position. He rallied his squadron after his British officer had been killed and continued in action though the squadron had suffered heavy casualties. Risaldar A Lingaraj Urs was a young hero who was killed in action at Aleppo on the 26th October 1918 during the final phase of the operations in Palestine. On a previous occasion this hero did a daring feat. On the 23rd November 1915 a squadron of the Mysore Lancers operating 15 miles east of Cantarah obtained touch with a force of sixty Turks on camels, the advance guard of a raiding party 200 strong. These were pursued for seven miles, with the result that 7 were killed, twelve were captured and many others wounded. Amongst the dead was a famous Bedouin leader. He was killed after a hand-to-hand fight by Lingaraj Urs and the latter was awarded the Indian Order of Merit for this act of gallantry. The significance of the gallant deed done by Lingaraj Urs lay in the fact that after the Bedouin leader's death, the attempts on the Suez canal entirely ceased.

Risaldar Subbaraja Urs was another young hero whose gallantry was rewarded by the grant of the Indian Distinguished Service medal. During an attack on the ferry-post Ismalia on 2nd February 1915, the patrol was commanded by Subbaraja Urs and this patrol came suddenly upon the enemy who were entrenched and advanced close to them mistaking them for their own men. The enemy immediately opened fire and the patrol had to retire from the enemy's entrenchments under a heavy fire. Sowar Ram Singh of the Bhavnagar Lancers had the misfortune to have his horse hit in the leg, with the result that the horse fell and the rider also over the horse's head. Subbaraja Urs who was some few yards in front of the sowar at the time had his attention attracted by the mishap. He immediately returned to the place where Ram Singh had fallen, took him on his own horse about 400 yards till they were behind a hill. Subbaraja Urs returned to India in February 1920 and in the following month (was appointed Commandant of the Imperial Service Lancers.



Risaldar B. P. Krishne Urs was yet another young hero who is entitled to all honour. He left for active service with his regiment in 1914. He greatly distinguished himself in meeting the attack of the Turks on the Suez Canal in 1915, when with about forty men he captured eighty camels and took forty Turks as prisoners along with much booty. In the beginning of 1916 he joined the staff of General Archibald Murray and served on it for nine months, during which time he had the opportunity of meeting His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and accompanying him on his visits to various camps. In 1917 he followed the regiment in its march from Suez to Gaza, where he was sent to gain experience in trench warfare. In an action on the 26th October 1918 in the Suez Canal Zone, Krishne Urs showed great gallantry while leading his squadron in a charge against a strongly held army position under very heavy fire. He was severely wounded in the hand and chest but continued to lead his squadron until exhaustion compelled him to fall out. His splendid example inspired all ranks. He was awarded the Military Cross by the British Government, the title of 'Captain' by the Maharaja and the 'White Eagle of Serbia' by the King of Serbia.

Mir Turab Ali was another hero who rose to the position of Risaldar by his military prowess. He enlisted himself as a sowar in the Imperial Service Lancers in 1903, when he was about 18 years old. Turab Ali's intelligence and energy gave him opportunities to secure rapidly higher and higher positions and he left for active service to Egypt in October 1914. On arrival, he was detailed to undergo machine-gun training and scarcely had he been a week old at this course, when his skill was put to the proof during an attack on a Turkish redoubt at Belel-Mahadat. By the time Turab Ali fired 300 rounds out of his machine-gun, the gun got jammed. But the fire was so effective that such of the defenders as did not fall hastily retreated. Turab Ali got his commission as Jamadar in January 1915 and was placed in charge of a machine-gun section and he was ever present with his section in every engagement in which his regiment took part and specially distinguished himself in the attack upon Gaza. He was for some

time appointed instructor of the 15th machine-guns squadron and he trained and made ready for the field two sub-sections of the Bikanir Camel Corps and Jodhpur Imperial Service Lancers. Turab Ali accompanied the Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade to Jericho and took part in several engagements, his name being mentioned in despatches for gallantry and devotion to duty. Turab Ali also took a conspicuous part in the capture of Haifa. Under a heavy fire of machine-gun and artillery he led an attack upon a hillock capturing a Turkish officer, four machine-guns and other booty. One of these guns was brought to India by the regiment as a war trophy. For these distinguished services Turab Ali was awarded the Indian Order of Merit and the Maharaja promoted him to the position of a Risaldar.

Sirdar Bahadur B. Chamaraja Urs left for Egypt in October 1914 in command of the Mysore Imperial Service Lancers. His military career began in March 1890 as Jamadar, Local Service Regiment. He rapidly rose from position to position and in May 1905 was permanently appointed Commandant of the Imperial Service troops. He was presented valuable Khillats by His Highness the Maharaja in open durbar in recognition of his services in connection with the visit of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales and Princess of Wales in 1906. Relating to his services in Egypt, Major-General W. A. Watson, Commanding Line of Communication Defences, writing to Chamaraja Urs on 27th March 1916 said: - "From the moment when the brigade was concentrated at Deolali seventeen months ago, it was evident to me that your regiment was imbued with a splendid military spirit and it was clear that your own character and influence was the cause. You have never hesitated to enforce discipline or feared to inflict punishment and the result has been that your men have reached a high standard of efficiency. They have behaved admirably, sometimes under trying circumstances, both in the camp and in the field. Their success in the action at Bel-el-Jafir on the 23rd November 1915 must have been a great satisfaction to you. I congratulate you on being commander of a regiment of which you may justly feel proud." Chamaraja Urs was present in the action around Gaza in Palestine in November 1917

and showed remarkable bravery and steadiness in leading the men under his command during the attack which ultimately ended in victory. On the 7th February 1918 Brigadier-General C. R. Harbard, Commanding Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade, in writing to the Inspector-General, Imperial Service troops in India, said: "Regimentdar B. Chamaraja Urs (Sirdar Bahadur) having been ordered to return to India, I feel that I cannot let him vacate the command of Mysore Lancers in the field without placing on record my appreciation of the services this officer has rendered, which I trust may be brought to the notice of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore. A strict disciplinarian and possessing a strong innate sense of justice, Chamaraja Urs has always maintained the right spirit in his men and by his personal example has taught them to undertake any duty, however monotonous and irksome it may have been, with cheerfulness and alacrity. The British officers who have been connected with the regiment since it came on service have all remarked upon the nice tone that prevailed in this regiment and what a pleasure it was to work with them. I attribute this tone in a large measure to the influence of Chamaraja Urs. Instead of resenting the presence of Special Service officers, he has always shown himself grateful for their assistance, and the good name that the Mysore Lancers have won for themselves during their stay in Egypt is largely due to the good relations that have always existed between this officer and through him with the other officers of the regiment."

On returning to India, he was appointed Chief Commandant in 1919. For his distinguished military services he was appointed to the order of British India in June 1916. His Highness the Maharaja honoured him with the first class Medal of the Gandabherunda Order and the position of Lt.-Col. in the Mysore army. He also received the foreign decoration of the White Eagle of Serbia from His Majesty the King of Serbia.

Last but not least comes the honoured name of Col. Desaraja Urs who, as has already been stated, went to Egypt as the representative of the Durbar and whose ardent military spirit is remembered even now with pride by the people of Mysore. As a



testimony to his innate military instincts, it may be stated that he preferred service in the military department, though he could have easily entered any of the civil departments on higher emoluments. He was appointed attaché in the Mysore Military Department in August 1884. After a short period of service, his fighting instinct asserted itself and resigning the State Service in June 1885 joined the British Military Department as Jamadar, 3rd Madras Light Cavalry. He soon obtained an opportunity for active service. From September 1886 to October 1887 he was in the field in Burma during the Burmese War which resulted in the capture of King Thebaw and the annexation of his country. On the 14th December 1887 his services were lent to the Mysore State by the Madras Government, when he was appointed assistant to the Military Secretary and aid-de-camp to His Highness the Maharaja. In December 1890 he resigned the Madras Service and was appointed Commandant, Imperial Service Regiment, in March 1894 and in August 1897 he rose to the responsible position of Chief Commandant, Mysore State troops, which he held continuously for a period of 22 years.

From October 1914 to January 1916 he served in Egypt during the Great War and his name was mentioned in the despatches of General Maxwell, Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Egypt. In August 1917 in appreciation of the services rendered by him during the war, His Majesty the King-Emperor awarded him the honorary rank of Lt.-Col. in the British army and in June 1918 His Highness the Maharaja decorated him with a first class medal of the Gandabherunda Order.

Apart from the work in connection with the arrangements for field service, the Durbar undertook with alacrity much other work of a miscellaneous character at the request of the Government of India. With a view to conserve all the tanning bark grown for the tanning of hides urgently required for army purposes, skin tanning was prohibited about the close of the year 1917 and a special police establishment was maintained to prevent any evasion of the rules. The great loss unavoidably caused to the people in consequence of their inability to work up a valuable raw material was cheerfully

borne by them in aid of the war. Some 19,000 army blankets were supplied to the Indian Munitions Board. One lakh and fifty thousand cubic feet of rosewood were supplied by the State Forest Department to the gun-carriage factory at Jubbalpore and 30,000 teak metre gauge sleepers for railway construction in Mesapotamia ; and lastly, about 20,000 acres of plantation and Kaval lands were leased to the British Grass Farm for raising grass.

The Government of India offered to refund to the Durbar the cost of mobilising their troops for active service amounting in all to Rs. 11 lakhs. But His Highness while greatly appreciating the offer, preferred that the cost of mobilisation should form part of the contributions made by the Durbar in aid of the war. In April 1918 His Highness made a further gift of Rs. 10 lakhs for war purposes and also contributed Rs. 20 lakhs towards the War Loan. In June 1918 His Highness issued a stirring message to his subjects calling upon them to join the army in larger numbers and to contribute liberally to the War Loan. The war, however, came to an end in November 1918 by the Germans suing for peace.

## **CHAPTER XXXI.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Various Administrative Improvements—1913—1918.**

Although the period from 1914 to 1918 was a period of great excitement and anxiety on account of the great European War, there was no lack of continuity in the introduction of various internal improvements to enhance the prosperity of the country. Sir M. Visvesvaraya was a financier of advanced views and he was in favour of incurring larger expenditure for the material and moral advancement of the country. He was also not a timid financier inasmuch as he held the view that public borrowing for productive purposes which had an unsavoury odour to some was quite justified when it brought additional revenue to the State and gave occupation and food to the people.

In November 1912 when Sir M. Visvesvaraya became Dewan, the assets of the State amounted to Rs. 795 lakhs and the liabilities to Rs. 362 lakhs. During the six years he was in charge of the administration, the revenues of the State ranged between Rs. 255 and Rs. 315 lakhs. The expenditure increased progressively from Rs. 202 lakhs in 1912-13 to Rs. 298 lakhs in 1918-19, but in spite of this increase in expenditure, large annual surpluses were left.

#### **Railway Construction.**

The construction of fresh lines of railway which had been suspended for some time was resumed. The work on the Mysore-Arsikere railway line *via* Hassan was commenced in November 1913 and completed and opened for traffic in 1918. This line was 103 miles in length and crossed three rivers the Lakshmanatirtha, the Kaveri and the Hemavathi. In 1913 the Government at the request of the Chikballapur Light Railway Company took over the construction of this line to its hands and the section between Yelahanka and Devanhalli was opened for goods traffic in the following year. Similarly the Kolar District Board metre gauge line from Bowringpet to Chikballapur *via* Kolar, Srinivasapur and Chintamani was also completed and

opened for traffic. On the 17th December 1913 His Highness the Maharaja opened the completed line from Bowringpet to Kolar and in his speech on that occasion said: "I am particularly glad to perform the opening ceremony, because I wish to show my appreciation of the public spirit which has prompted the people of the Kolar District to construct this much needed line among themselves. As the pioneers of Local Fund Railways in Mysore, you deserve the warm support of my Government and I earnestly hope that when you have shown the way, other districts will not be slow to follow."

A tramway was also undertaken for construction between Tarikere and Narasimharajapur and completed as far as Luckwalli at this time. In 1915-16 a Railway Committee was constituted consisting of official and non-official members to advise the Government on questions relating to railway policy, finance, construction and establishment. In fulfilment of the conditions of the branch lines agreement, the Government of India agreed in 1918 to restore to the State the management of the Bangalore-Mysore, Mysore-Nanjangud and Birur-Shimoga sections from the hands of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company. With the resumption of these lines, a total length of 372 miles of metre and narrow gauge lines came under the management of the State.

For the satisfactory development, however, of the trade and commerce of the State, it was understood that two main arterial connections were of vital importance. The metre gauge system terminated at Nanjangud and unless it was continued and connected with the same system in South India, the Mysore railway system would remain incomplete. This question which was of 30 years standing at the time was again brought under correspondence with the Government of India. Similarly a railway line was needed to connect the State railway system with a suitable port on the West Coast. A project for a line from Arsikere to Mangalore *via* Hassan was for a long time under the consideration of His Highness' Government. But later it was abandoned as the port of Mangalore was not open to shipping for

at least 3 months in the year. It was now considered preferable to have a port at Bhatkal and investigations for the purpose were started. The sea-board near Bhatkal was only 10 miles from the State frontier. There was a project to construct a new railway from Shimoga to the top of the Western Ghats for opening up the forests and the Malnad area and the distance of Bhatkal from the terminus of the new railway was less than fifty miles. The length of additional railway needed to join the sea-board at this point was much shorter and the descent from the top of the Ghats to the coast much easier than it was from any other point. Bhatkal however was entirely in British territory and the execution of the project depended entirely on the sympathy and support of the Government of India.

#### **Development of Electric Power.**

The electric scheme obtained considerable development from time to time ever since it was started. By 1912 a sum of over Rs. 83 lakhs had been spent as capital outlay and the net profit in that year amounted to 8.51 per cent on the total capital invested, after deducting interest charge at 4 per cent. Both the city of Mysore and the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore were for the first time illuminated with electric lighting in the year 1908. Subsequently arrangements were also made for supplying electric power at cheap rates for small household appliances and industrial concerns.

In 1913 an agreement was concluded with the Gold Mining Companies to afford protection to the existing power supply by storage in the Kannambadi reservoir and also to provide them with an additional supply of power. The dam of the Kannambadi reservoir begun in 1911 had risen by this time to a height of 51.50 feet in the river bed. The storage of water thus far secured not only enabled the Government to guarantee to the Gold Mines power supply up to 9321 H.P. as previously agreed to, but also to supply additional power to the extent of 5000 H.P. Regarding the second stage of the reservoir, as there were differences of opinion between the Madras Government and the Mysore Durbar, the Government of India appointed a Court of Arbitration presided

over by Sir Henry Griffin, Judge of the High Court of Allahabad, assisted by the Hon'ble Mr. Nethersole, Inspector-General of Irrigation in India, as assessor. The proceedings of the court commenced on the 18th July 1913 and after conducting investigations for nearly ten months, the Court submitted its award to the Government of India in 1914. In March 1916 that Government confirmed the award of the Arbitration Court, thereby enabling the Durbar to undertake the construction of the second stage of the reservoir project which when completed was expected to bring under irrigation an additional extent of land of over 1,25,000 acres in the Mandya, Malavalli, Nagamangala and T-Narsipur taluks. Among the inhabitants of the Kaveri delta, particularly those of Tanjore and Trichnopoly districts, there was however considerable misconception regarding the effect of this award. The area in the Mysore territory irrigated at this time by the Kaveri was 1,15,000 acres, while the corresponding area in the lower reaches of the river within the Madras Presidency was 12,25,000 acres; that is to say, 92 per cent of the area irrigated by this river lay in the Madras Presidency and only 8 per cent in Mysore. Three-fourths of the water-supply of the river however passed through Mysore territory and thus the benefit derived by the State was wholly incommensurate with the high proportion of the total flow contributed by Mysore. A large surplus flow in the river went to waste into the sea year after year after meeting the needs of both the Mysore and Madras irrigation and the Mysore project was intended to intercept only a small portion of this surplus. The award contained a proviso placing the Mysore Government under an obligation to deliver a constant supply of 900 cubic feet of water per second regularly in the hot weather, while the natural river flow was on occasions as low as one-tenth of that discharge, compelling Mysore thus to pay a heavy price for the award in her favour.

#### **Fresh attempts for efficient maintenance of tanks.**

During this period fresh attempts were made to devise more efficient methods for the proper maintenance of tanks. As the efforts hitherto made had not yielded the expected results, a committee was now appointed for the investigation and suggestion

of more efficient means than those hitherto adopted. This committee submitted its report in August 1918. The report stated that there were many tanks in the State with atchkats (maximum cultivable area) disproportionate to their capacities due to a variety of causes such as the accumulation of silt in the tank thereby diminishing the storage of water, the indiscriminate grant of fresh lands on Nirsardi or water-rate without reference to the capacity of the tank, there being no co-ordination between the three departments concerned in the matter—the Public Works who were responsible for the storage of water, the Revenue Department whose duty it was to grant facilities for extension of cultivation and the Settlement Department whose duty consisted in fixing assessments on lands more or less as they found them at the time of their operations. Further, the mode of choosing major tanks for restoration was left to chance without a properly pre-arranged programme. It was also found that there were still 737 major tanks waiting for restoration out of a total number of 2507 in the State. The rule enjoining the pre-payment of one-third of the estimated amount either in money or in labour proved irksome to the land-holders and was often evaded. In addition to the major tanks which had not been touched, there were also 18,490 minor tanks still to be restored. At the rate at which restoration in the past had been carried out, the committee calculated that it would take 140 years to complete the whole. Further, simultaneously with the efficient restoration of tanks, there was also needed an arrangement for their periodical repair and proper maintenance. Various other methods such as the commutation of the ryot's liability by the imposition of an acreage cess, attempts to revive the communal spirit by the formation of village statutory bodies under the Tank Panchayet Regulation had also failed to fulfil the expectations formed of them. The question of efficiently maintaining the tanks was however of paramount importance to an agricultural country like Mysore, and at all times it has caused anxiety to Government to find an effective solution in a matter where old established traditions were light-heartedly interfered with in the past.

### **The Introduction of the Jury System.**

Frequent representations having been made at the meetings of the Representative Assembly for the introduction of the jury system in the trial of sessions cases, the Government sanctioned for the first time its introduction in the Bangalore and Mysore districts from July 1917 and the system was extended in later years to other districts.

### **Separation of Magisterial from Executive functions.**

In 1916 one hundred and twenty-eight Village Munsiffs' Courts commenced to work. In the same year sanction was accorded to the formation of courts of Benches of Honorary Magistrates at four of the district headquarter towns and these courts were made permanent in May 1918, the scheme being subsequently extended to the remaining four districts also.

In 1907 as an experimental measure, the Amildars of seven taluks in different parts of the State had been relieved of their magisterial functions and the same assigned either to City Magistrates or to Munsiffs. Later, the Government became convinced that it would tend on the whole to a better and prompter administration of justice, if the duty of trying cases was assigned as far as possible, to officers whose attention was not distracted by other important and heavy work, and accordingly in May 1918 a scheme was introduced for providing a separate agency for the disposal of original criminal work. According to this scheme, three grades of special magistrates came into existence—those of the first grade being first class magistrates with, as a rule, appellate powers, those of the second grade generally exercised second class powers, and the third grade magistrates generally exercised second class powers. Assistant Commissioners, Amildars and Deputy Amildars continued to be magistrates ex-officio, but they ceased to exercise magisterial functions in practice, except such as were really executive in their nature under the Criminal Procedure Code. The scheme was in the first instance introduced in the districts of Bangalore and Shimoga where it came into operation from 1st July 1919 and was completed in the whole State by 1925.



In 1906 the Mysore Municipal Regulation VII of that year had been passed into law and the Municipal Councils of the cities of Bangalore and Mysore had been brought under its operation. A change in the appointment of Presidents of Municipal Councils was made in 1913 allowing the choice to be made from among non-officials also. The Bangalore City Municipality was the first to be selected for this change and Sir K. P. Puttanna Chetty who had retired as a Member of the State Council readily came forward to fill this place. In the Municipalities of Kolar, Tumkur and Chickmagalur non-officials were appointed as Vice-Presidents.

### **Reform of the Legislative Council.**

After an experience of the working of the Legislative Council for about 8 years, it was found that improvements in certain directions were needed and these were effected by Regulation I of 1914. The Legislative Council formed in 1907 had been based on the model of the British Indian Act of 1861. But though this act had been revised more than once, the Mysore Council continued on its old lines. In order to improve the representative character of the Council, the number of members was raised to 24 from the old maximum number which varied from 15 to 18. Of the increased number, 4 were nominated on the recommendation of the Representative Assembly, 4 by territorial representation from the districts. Ten were officials and six were nominated by Government. The number of elected members by these changes was raised from 2 to 8. The privileges of discussing the annual State Budget and of raising interpellations were given. The Council, however, had no power to modify or to add to the budget or to move resolutions on the same. The interpellations were limited to 12 questions at each session and the nature of the questions to be admitted was determined, among other considerations, on the measure of support accorded to the questions by the members. These changes however did not modify the ultimate character of the Mysore State constitution and the responsibility for the good government of the country rested entirely with the Maharaja as settled by the Government of India. In reforming the Legislative Council His Highness was actuated by a keen desire to associate the

representatives of his subjects in the councils of the administration, so that they might bring to bear their influence on the policy and activities of Government.

#### **Finance.**

The privilege of discussing the annual financial budget of the State accorded by the Maharaja was for the first time availed of by the Members of the Legislative Council at their meeting held in July 1914. Subsequently the Finance Committee was re-constituted and the scope of its work was enlarged with a view to enable it to investigate means of expanding revenue as well as scope for retrenching expenditure. In order that greater attention might be given to the more important questions connected with finance and the development of revenue, a full time Financial Secretary was also appointed in 1916. The draft budget was also ordered to be published before the session of the Representative Assembly was held, so that the members might have ample time to carefully acquaint themselves with the allotments made for each department. In this year J. S. Chakravarthi who had been appointed to the new post of Financial Secretary, speaking at the Budget Session of the Legislative Council humourously likened the Mysore finances before this reformed committee came into existence to an ailing Purdahnashin Sultana and he pointed out the difficulties under which the doctors formerly laboured whenever they wanted to understand the condition of the patient. Till a couple of years ago, he said, the doctors could only diagnose the disease by examining the tongue shown through a slit in the purdah or a hand thrust through a door chink, but under the change introduced, the doctors had been given the necessary access to the extent permitted by civilised medical etiquette.

On account of the world war which prevailed at this time, the political and other conditions had become very unstable and it was therefore considered that the finances of the State should undergo further scrutiny by an expert. Mr. K. L. Datta, a retired officer of the Finance Department of the Government of India, was temporarily appointed to make an independent examination of the accounts and finances of the State, no such examination having

taken place after that of Mr. Kierpander in 1902. Mr. Datta on reviewing the State's finances as they stood on the 30th July 1916 found that the State had succeeded in creating assets equal to its gross income for nearly two years after making provision for the two loans which it had raised and was of opinion that the administration might be justly proud of the results achieved. A new classification of the budget heads was introduced by Mr. Datta and the budget also came to include for the first time the detailed estimates of the Public Works Department.

## **CHAPTER XXXII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Economic and other improvements—1913—1918.**

##### **Economic Conference.**

The Economic Conference which began in 1911 had achieved some beneficial results in the shape of training the people through its committees and associating them in public work with Government officers. In May 1913 the conference was strengthened by election to it by ballot of eight members from the Representative Assembly. In his address to the Representative Assembly in September 1914 the Dewan Sir M. Visvesvaraya used these earnest words to rouse the people to greater activity: "The recent growth of communications has been bringing us closer to the populations of the world. It is an advantage to come into contact with people more civilised than ourselves, if we can profit by their example. But this close association has also brought us increased responsibilities. It has brought us into the vortex of the struggle for existence. Where formerly the economic effects of local enterprises were determined by local conditions, we are called upon without adequate training or skill and with our primitive implements to take our place in international competition. In the face of the increasing severity of the struggle, our spirit of content, our indifference to science and material progress are a growing peril."

To stimulate interest in the work connected with public measures in rural areas, it was arranged to hold district and taluk conferences commencing from July 1916. At these conferences, questions connected with economic subjects, village improvement and co-operative societies and the wants of the people generally were discussed. These conferences had an educative value and they helped the district officers to ascertain and catalogue local wants and to focus the activities of the people on specific measures of improvement. In his address to the Representative Assembly held during the Daśara of 1917 Sir M. Visvesvaraya

who was from the beginning the inspirer of the idea of the Economic Conference summed up its objects in these words: "All the activities hitherto attempted, though appearing fragmentary, should be taken as forming a connected scheme of progress. A determined effort is necessary to raise the level of education and working power of the masses, including the backward and depressed classes. With the spread of primary education at one end and the university with its rapidly developing modern side on the other, our education will help to create greater homogeneity and social unity among our population. The end and aim of our activities should be to increase production and wealth, to strengthen and encourage habits and practices among our people which are already found to be good, to correct wrong popular beliefs and to place before them sound ideals based on the experience of progressive nations; in other words, to prepare a prosperous, energetic, alert and enterprising population. All activities of the State may be classed under one or other of the three main heads—administration, economic progress, and civic and social progress. Those which fall under administration are attended to by His Highness' Government, assisted by the representations and advice of the Representative Assembly or other public bodies. The economic activities are controlled by a semi-official organisation which is becoming more and more effective and in which a large number of Government officers and non-official gentlemen are taking part. The civic and social activities have been recently begun and a considerable amount of propaganda work is needed before the activities assume their rightful importance in the public eye."

In 1918 the Maharaja decided that the Economic Conference organisation was to remain permanent. With the Legislative Council, the Representative Assembly and the Economic Conference, it was believed that there would be more or less a complete organisation for the political and economic training of the people.

#### **Establishment of the Mysore Bank.**

We have seen that in 1912 the Industries and Commerce Committee of the Economic Conference recommended the

establishment of a financing Bank for the encouragement of industries and commerce. The scheme subsequently took shape and a Bank of the kind proposed was established under the patronage of the State and commenced work from 2nd October 1913.

#### **Sandal Oil Factory.**

Various special economic activities were also undertaken during this period. Prior to 1916, sandalwood was being sold by public auction by the Forest Department which brought a fairly good revenue to the State. Soon after the outbreak of the war, the auction sales of sandalwood held in November and December 1914 proved unfavourable, and on the recommendation of Sir Alfred Chatterton the idea of converting sandalwood into oil and placing the oil on the market was then seriously considered by Government, with the result that a small sandalwood distillation factory was established at Bangalore which commenced work in May 1916. As the undertaking proved successful through the energy and resourcefulness of Sir Alfred Chatterton, a factory on a larger scale was established at Mysore and work commenced in August 1917.

#### **Soap Factory.**

It was found that very good soap was being made on a small experimental scale in the Indian Institute of Science. To develop the industry on a commercial scale, the Government established a soap factory at Bangalore and placed it under the supervision of Mr. S. G. Sastry (now Director of Industries) who had been specially deputed to England to acquaint himself with the methods of manufacturing soap in that country. The factory commenced working in February 1918.

#### **Commercial and Industrial activities.**

In the year 1918 the Department of Industries was reorganised by the addition of a commercial section. A Central Industrial and Commercial Museum was started and a scheme for granting loans for cottage and minor industries also came into operation. A small party of merchants and officers was deputed to Japan to study industries and trade there.

**Chamber of Commerce.**

In his speech on the 26th June 1915 to the Economic Conference, Sir M. Visvesvaraya threw out a suggestion for the establishment of a Chamber of Commerce for the whole State. The question of starting this Chamber received special attention at the hands of the Industries and Commerce Committee for 18 months, prominent among the members of this Committee being Sir Alfred Chatterton, W. C. Rose, Mr. B. K. Garudachar, Vardhamaniah and Mr. Ranganatha Rao Sahib. The committee found that the bulk of the trade in the State was carried on in a very primitive fashion. The outlook of the merchants was narrow, their power of co-operation feeble and their business methods out of date. They were ignorant of trade statistics and on account of lack of training they were unable to adapt themselves to the rapidly changing conditions of the world trade. One of the means to broaden the outlook of the merchants was no doubt the establishment of an association like the Chamber of Commerce which would give them opportunities of personal service and of joint deliberation and action on large questions connected with industries and trade generally. The object of the Chamber was to bring the wants and grievances of the men engaged in industry and trade to the notice of the Government and of public service corporations like the railway companies, municipal and other local bodies, bank, post and telegraph or other authorities whose operations affected them. In the second place, the Chamber was to maintain a continuous study of large commercial questions of local interest and constantly strive to strengthen the conditions under which trade and industries were carried on at the time. The Chamber was also intended to focus and consolidate commercial opinion on current topics and to publish the united judgment of representative merchants and businessmen regarding such topics for the information of the public.

A Chamber with these objects was inaugurated on 8th May 1916 in the hall of the Government High School, Bangalore, at a meeting at which over 500 merchants were present. The Chamber began work in 1917 under the chairmanship of W. C. Rose its first president and sub-committees of the Chamber were formed at

Tumkur, Davangere, Chickmagalur and Tiptur. The Chamber now possesses a building of its own due to the munificence of Sir Haji Ismail Sait and others.

#### **The Iron Works at Bhadravathi.**

The valuable deposits of iron ore on the Bababudan hills which had been discovered and reported upon by the Geological Department of the State now engaged attention as to whether these deposits could be worked on a commercial scale. The lack of coal in the State however stood in the way of working them. But now the question of manufacturing pig iron on a small scale with the aid of charcoal fuel was investigated by Mr. C. P. Perin of the firm of Messrs. Perin & Marshall of New York who were Consulting Engineers to the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Ltd., of Sakchi, and on his advice the Government installed a wood distillation plant to manufacture charcoal and a blast furnace for smelting iron. The scheme was financed by Government and the Tata Iron and Steel Company was appointed in 1918 to manage the technical portion of the concern under the general supervision of a Board of Management.

#### **Sericulture.**

Measured by its outturn, sericulture next to agriculture was the most important industry carried on in the State. But owing to the spread of disease amongst the worms, the industry began to show signs of decline and in 1913 experiments were started in the Tata Silk Farm at Bangalore which was then under the control of a member of the Salvation Army to ascertain what improvements could be effected in the reeling of silk for the local market and a silk filature also was established at Chennapatna.

Under the direction of Signor Mari whose services were engaged in 1914, a rearing school at Chennapatna was established where there existed a Central Farm—the gift of a local merchant Mr. Abdul Quddus—for supplying disease-free eggs on a large scale. A Central School was opened at Mysore for the training of the staff of the department and for purposes of demonstration and instruction to the ryots. A number of other schools were also



opened in some of the important centres of the State. Later, a reeling school was started at Santemarhalli and in the school at Chennapatna special arrangements were made to train a large number of gosha women in re-reeling and twisting.

#### **Agricultural Experiments.**

In 1913 an Agricultural School was opened in Bangalore and the curriculum of studies in the school was made as practical as possible. The major portion of the students' time was given to practical farm-work, only the principles of elementary sciences being taught to enable the students to understand agricultural processes. In the same year the Agricultural Department was strengthened by the appointment of a Director as its head. In 1914 the department was re-organised and a large amount of new work was inaugurated, particularly demonstration work which was extended to every district in the State.

In December 1914 the Government sanctioned a scheme for the creation of some large landed estates and blocks of land available for the purpose in each district were published for general information. At Nagenhalli in the Mysore District a Government farm was opened to investigate questions connected with sugarcane and to study the agricultural needs of the area commanded by the Kaveri channels.

#### **Rural and Malnad Improvements.**

Increased attention began to be paid during this period to rural improvements. In 1913 in his address to the Representative Assembly Sir M. Visvesvaraya drew attention pointedly to the condition of the villages in the State and to the vast possibilities of improvement that existed if only organised efforts were made for the purpose. One of the measures proposed for village improvement was the formulation of a scheme for the establishment of Village Improvement Committees. The system of devoting half-a-day's labour every week for improving village sites and carrying out works of communal benefit was begun in 1915. For the formation of roads, wells and other improvements, Government grants were supplemented by the villagers with contributions either in the shape

of cash or labour. The improvement of village cart-tracks and tree planting received special attention. To ensure progress under the rural water-supply scheme, the purchase of a set of boring tools and the employment of a special staff were sanctioned for each district.

A special scheme for Malnad improvement was introduced in February 1914 and in a period of a little over two years, rank vegetation was cleared in 570 villages. Fifty-four wells were completed, some village roads were opened and greater facilities were afforded to the people for building houses for themselves. Propaganda work included the distribution of leaflets on sanitation and hygiene and the exhibitions of lantern slides depicting the health conditions in the Malnad and the precautions to be taken by the people residing in the area. A disease survey was also commenced on a small scale in the Sagar taluk.

#### **Educational Improvements.**

In the year 1913 a comprehensive scheme of elementary and advanced technical and commercial education was introduced by the Government and it consisted in the main of the establishment of the Chamarajendra Technical Institute at Mysore and a Commercial and a Mechanical Engineering School at Bangalore. The Engineering School and the Industrial School which existed at Mysore were combined to form the nucleus of the new Chamarajendra Technical Institute. The institute consisted of five sections, *viz.*, the Engineering Section, the Industries and Crafts Section, the Fine Arts Section, the Commercial School Section and the Workshop. The Commercial School at Bangalore provided for an elementary course in commercial subjects in English and Kannda for one year and a secondary course in English for two years. The Mechanical Engineering School undertook to teach the management and care of oil and steam engines, erection of machinery, working of mills, electric work, driving motor cars and other subjects. The main object of Government in starting these institutions was to create an incentive for manual work in the younger generation and to enable them to earn their subsistence by following an independent profession in after life.

In 1913 a Regulation for introducing compulsory primary education was passed into law and in the following year, sanction was given to the opening of 1000 elementary schools on a revised grant-in-aid basis. The principle followed was that the villagers were to supplement the grant given by Government by contributions in money or kind, so that no teacher was required to serve on less than Rs. 10 a month. The scheme of compulsory education was introduced in 15 selected centres to start with. In the same year the Widows' Home at Mysore was taken over by Government and was attached to the Maharani's College as a hostel. Provision was also made for imparting English instruction in a large number of Girls' Schools. The re-organisation of women's education provided also for instruction in industrial and domestic arts in addition to education of a literary character.

In 1915 a new scheme for opening more village elementary schools was brought into operation under a grant-in-aid basis by offering a Government contribution of half the cost of each school. The scale of pay of village schoolmasters was revised at a cost of nearly half a lakh of rupees annually. To encourage the study of English in rural areas, the rate of contribution payable by the villagers concerned for village English Schools was reduced and many night schools for adults were also opened. A provision of Rs. 7000 in the budget was made for the grant of scholarships in foreign countries for the study of various technical subjects such as Paper Manufacture, Banking, systems of Education, Organic Chemistry, Mechanical Engineering and Acturial Science. One of the most hopeful features of the situation was that the people were fully alive to the advantages of education and readily came forward with liberal contributions for maintaining teachers and constructing school buildings.

#### **A University for Mysore.**

It was felt at this time that without a separate university for Mysore the educational system would be seriously defective and accordingly a university was started and began work from July 1916. The University Bill as introduced in the Legislative Council provided for a new type of university of which the colleges

formed an integral part. His Highness the Maharaja was the Chancellor of the University and the late H. V. Nanjundaiya who had rendered distinguished service both as a Judge of the High Court of Mysore and also as a Member of the State Council was the first Vice-Chancellor. On the 12th October 1916 on the memorable occasion when the first meeting of the Senate of the new Mysore University took place, the Maharaja as Chancellor made a speech from which the following are extracts:—

“I think we all realise the solemnity and importance of to-day's ceremony. It marks an epoch in the development of education in the Mysore State; for, what could be more significant in our history than the creation at the express desire of the people of a national university. It is the first university in this country to be founded outside the limits of British India and is an institution which meets the special needs of Mysore and which will in time have far-reaching effects on the intellectual progress and the material development of the State. I feel that on this occasion I should publicly state how great is the debt of gratitude we owe to the University of Madras under whose fostering care the constituent colleges of our university have attained their present state of high efficiency. Nearly all our distinguished Mysoreans owe their education to the same university and are justly proud of the connection..... The ideal of university life which the constitution of the older universities in India has hitherto favoured no longer remains the same and the creation of local teaching universities is the inevitable outcome of the circumstances of the present time. Our university is in reality one of the first fruits of the benevolent policy inaugurated by the Government of India of the encouragement of smaller and more compact universities approximating to the unitary type. The university derives an advantage by the appointment of a full-time Vice-Chancellor who can devote all his energy to administrative work and establish intimate relations with the professors and lecturers. This feature of our university is so far unique in India..... Another advantage is that we have a special guarantee of harmony and efficiency in the fact that the principals of the colleges and representative professors have a place on the Council and therefore

a direct voice in prescribing courses of study, in directing examinations and, in fact, in every detail of administration. This intimate connection between the teaching staff and the university is still further strengthened by the fact that all the professors without exception are constituted members of the university and have a seat on the Senate. Another very important feature in a small university is the stricter control which it can exercise over the social life of the students. The Unions which are to be built at Mysore and Bangalore will encourage the best form of club life among both professors and students. The hostels which we intend to extend and amplify will develop the residential feature in university life. Supervision will be exercised also over non-residential students who are not living with their parents or relations. I need hardly point out how great a stimulus will be given to the important branch of athletics by the development of residential life, the erection of gymnastic and cricket pavilions and the direct influence of the professors who will in time be provided with residences in the university areas. I feel that I ought to say a few words as to what I think should be the aim of our university. In the first place, we should spare no effort to gain for the Mysore University the respect of the educational world. This end can only be achieved by maintaining a really high standard of teaching and examination and also by never allowing that standard to be lowered, however strongly you may be tempted by the lure of numerical results. It should be the aim, too, of the university to turn out graduates who are not merely learned but who are of high character and refinement which are the distinguishing marks of every true gentleman." The first convocation of the university for conferring degrees was held on the 19th October 1918, when His Highness the Maharaja as Chancellor presided and Sir Ashutosh Mukherji, Judge of the Calcutta High Court and Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University, delivered the convocation address.

In this year a donation of Rs. 2 lakhs and an annual recurring grant of Rs. 12,000 were sanctioned for the Hindu University at Benares, of which the Maharaja was the Chancellor.

In the year 1917 a sum of Rs. 1 lakh was provided in the budget for the grant of scholarships to pupils belonging to the backward and depressed communities, chiefly to encourage them to take to higher education.

## **CHAPTER XXXIII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Various Administrative Improvements—1913—1918.**

##### **Local Self-Government.**

Local Self-Government in Mysore had achieved a fair measure of success and it was now deemed advisable to take a step forward. A new Bill to amend the Municipal Regulation of 1906 was accordingly introduced in the Legislative Council on the 29th June 1917. The legislation effected in 1906 although based on liberal principles was found not to have produced any marked results, especially in the case of Minor Municipalities owing to the preponderance of the official element and to too much subordination of the councils to Government officials. The Regulation was also too complex for the smaller towns to which it could not be applied, thereby causing the anomaly of the existence of Municipal Boards created under the executive orders of Government alongside of those constituted under statutory provisions. In 1915 the Dewan in his address to the Representative Assembly had stated that the Local Bodies were not playing their legitimate role in the administration of the country and that the apathy displayed by these bodies was attributable chiefly to a deficiency in the elected popular element and to the want of reasonable powers of control over their own funds. There were at this time before Government two well-considered reports, one by the Local Self-Government Committee and the other by the Local Finance Committee. The first committee was appointed in February 1914 under the presidency of the late Sir M. Kantaraj Urs who was a Member of the State Council at the time and the second in May 1914 under the chairmanship of Dewan Bahadur C. Srinivasa Iyengar who was a retired member of the same Council. In 1915 a conference of Local Boards and Municipalities had been held in Mysore which was opened by His Highness the Yuvaraja. At this conference Sir K. P. Puttanna Chetty who had considerable experience in municipal problems invited attention to the fact that Government exercised too much

supervision and control over Municipalities and that thereby those institutions had come to be regarded as mere adjuncts of Government. Under the rules as they stood at the time, the Deputy Commissioner was the president of all the Municipalities outside the Regulation in the district and also of all the Regulation Municipalities in the taluks. The sub-division Assistant Commissioners were the presidents of all Regulation Municipalities in the taluks of which they were in revenue charge. The Local Self-Government Committee very rightly pointed out in their report that the nominal appointment of Deputy Commissioners as presidents of these small Municipalities had been of very little value inasmuch as they hardly attended any of their meetings. Although the Regulation of 1906 was meant to mark a distinct advance in the principles of local self-government so far as Municipalities were concerned, it really did not affect the municipal administration of a majority of the Boards which had been established without a statutory basis, though it was admitted that these Boards undoubtedly tended to educate the people in the art of managing local affairs.

The object of the amending Bill of 1917 was to bring within the purview of the Regulation such of the non-Regulation Municipalities and the Unions in inam villages as were fit to be constituted into Minor Municipalities. Under the new constitution, an increase in the elected element was introduced, one-third being increased to one-half in the case of Town Municipal Councils and two-thirds in the case of City Municipalities. The Government also accepted the principle recommended by the committee and the conference of the election of Presidents and Vice-Presidents in the City and Town Municipal Councils and also of providing in the Regulation itself for a full-time paid President who might or might not be an official. Another amendment in the Bill was intended to invest Municipal Councils with enlarged powers, limiting the control of Government to broad questions only. In order to give an increased scope of work to the Municipal Councils, power was also reserved by the Government to vest selected Municipal Councils with the control of Elementary Education, Medical Relief including vaccination, and Muzrai institutions.



Again as regards the Local Boards, the Regulation of 1902 which governed them was characterised by the above Committee as 'illiberal' in its provisions. The Taluk Boards were found to be wholly inactive for lack of any distinct sphere of work for them. The revenue officials of all grades were invariably Presidents from the Deputy Commissioner downwards and the Amildars were nominal presidents of more than one Union in their taluks. Although in 1907-08 villages comprising three hundred houses or 1000 inhabitants were authorised without any distinction to be constituted into Unions, the Union administration had not proved any more successful than before.

In 1917 it was considered that under the circumstances mentioned above, instead of introducing amendments to the Local Boards Regulation of 1902 it was desirable to recast it as a whole and to introduce it in the Legislative Council as a new Bill. The most important feature in the new Regulation after it emerged from the Legislative Council was the insertion of a chapter on Village Panchayets and the reason assigned for this addition was that the village should for ever be the unit of local self-government and that greater attention was therefore to be paid to the improvement of village administration, thereby laying a surer foundation for the more efficient development of local self-government. A large number of Village Improvement Committees had been established under the executive orders of Government and were already working in the State on definite principles. It was now intended to place on a statutory basis all those committees which had attained a fair amount of efficiency and to notify them as Panchayets. The majority of the members of these Panchayets were to be elected as well as the President. Their functions were classified under three heads—1. Ordinary duties connected with the maintenance of roads, sanitation, water-supply and other like items; 2. improvement work; and 3. education, irrigation, village courts and other connected work. The Bill also contained the necessary provision for giving these Panchayets financial autonomy, subject to the general supervision of the Taluk Boards. The Panchayets besides having their own funds accruing from house-tax, taxes on vacant village sites and other items were also to have

a definite portion of the local cess and Mohatarfa, apart from any Government contributions they might receive.

Next as regards the Taluk Boards, the main defect in the system as it existed then was that these Boards had no definite responsibilities and functions and so far had been only the agents of District Boards in name. The Government in the main accepted the recommendations of the Local Self-Government Committee, according to which there was to be an elected majority in all the Boards, both district and taluk. The Taluk Boards were to be given independent powers subject only to the control of the District Boards to administer and control only those functions and services which were more or less localised, leaving to the District Boards functions and services which required a co-ordinate organisation throughout the district. This necessitated a separate Taluk Board Fund for administrative purposes as well as a separate budget, for all of which necessary provision was made in the new Bill. The Bill also contained in accordance with the views of the Committee provisions for the transfer of institutions such as minor Muzrai institutions, primary education, medical relief and veterinary dispensaries. The Government's desire was ultimately to develop the District Boards into District Councils and the Bill accordingly provided that in matters that did not ordinarily come within their functions, it was open to the Boards to pass resolutions on the subjects outside their cognisance and send them to Government for consideration.

Sir Albion Banerji who belonged to the Indian Civil Service and was employed for the time being as a Member of the Mysore State Council, in piloting this Bill through the Legislative Council on the 29th June 1917 quoted from Harris' 'Problems of Local Self-Government' the following passage in order to indicate the spirit which lay behind the Bill: "If we endeavour to formulate one or two of the principles underlying the best lines for administration to follow, the first will undoubtedly be that local government is the business of the local authorities and that all that the Central Government has to do is to give them information and guidance, to apply the

whip or the brake. Complete independence of the Central Government is certainly undesirable, but local authorities must be freer than they are at present to make experiments, even to make mistakes. Continuous meddlesome interference by the Central Government hampers good government, delays progress, destroys a sense of responsibility, and this in turn discourages the best men from taking part in the local administration."

On the 28th September 1917 when the report of the Select Committee on the above Bill was considered in the Legislative Council, Sir A. R. Banerji strongly deprecated the idea of representation on communal grounds which had been urged by some of the members, though rejected by the Select Committee as a whole. "The best representatives in Municipal Councils and Local Boards are certainly those who do not take a sectarian or communal view of their duties and responsibilities but have a broader outlook and discharge their duties as true citizens. The whole principle of communal representation is opposed to every sound idea of advancement, solidarity and the promotion of common interests so far as Municipal and Local Boards' administration is concerned." Again, when the same member brought forward a motion at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 28th March 1918 to pass the Bill into law, he reverted to the subject of communal representation and once more explained his views in these words:—"The expression 'communal representation' only means to me the interests of minorities amongst the population who on account of their low numerical strength are unable to cope with electoral contests with the majorities..... When legislating on affairs relating to local self-government, the Legislative Council would be entering into dangerous ground if it attempted to solve questions relating to such delicate matters as sectarian and caste differences. What one would hope with the refining process of civilisation and enlightenment is to see a gradual coalescence of the different communities that constitute the Hindu population of the country and a corresponding increase in the homogeneity of interests and a spirit of equality of rights and obligations in all dealings between man and man."

The Bill on receiving the assent of the Maharaja became law as Regulation V of 1918. In accordance with its provisions, the Municipalities were classified into Minor, Town and City Municipal Councils. The Deputy Commissioners, as a general rule, ceased to be members of such councils and Amildars were appointed as presidents of taluk headquarter Municipalities as well as of Minor Municipal Councils in the taluk, except when an Assistant Commissioner or a non-official member was appointed as such. Several Town and Minor Municipal Councils were allowed the privilege of electing their own Vice-Presidents.

As regards the Local Boards, the Local Boards Regulation II of 1902 had been amended by Regulation IX of 1911 whereby power was conferred on the District Boards to frame bye-laws for the regulation of markets, slaughter-houses, cart-stands, hotels, burial and burning grounds, and for the control of unwieldy traffic on roads. In 1916-17 rules were framed for the election of Vice-Presidents for the District Boards. Subsequently, however, to give effect to the the Government Order of November 1916 on the scheme of local self-government as recommended by the special committees already referred to as well as to consolidate the existing law, a revised Regulation known as the Mysore Local Boards and Village Panchayets Regulation VI of 1918 was passed on the 25th June 1918. The number of members on District and Taluk Boards was increased so as to provide for an elected majority in all Districts and Taluk Boards, giving independent powers to Taluk Boards subject only to a general control by the District Board and allotting separate funds to Taluk Boards. The Regulation also provided for the establishment of Village Panchayets and authorised them to undertake—1. the ordinary maintenance of roads, sanitation, water-supply, drainage; 2. improvement works as specified in the village improvement scheme; and 3. all other communal work connected with education and irrigation. The Regulation also empowered the Local Boards to raise a special cess for guaranteeing repayment of loans for specified purposes,

## CHAPTER XXXIV.

### Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.

**Aftermath of the war—Food control—Retirement of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and appointment of Sir M. Kantaraj Urs—Mr. A. R. Banerji acting Dewan during Sir M. Kantaraj Urs' illness—Effects of food control—Unsettlement of the State finances—Public loans of 1920—Income-tax—Special Committee for investigation of the financial condition of the State.**

Now turning to the aftermath of the Great War. All the countries of the world had to face severe economic evils almost immediately after the conclusion of peace. Lord Curzon one of the former Viceroy of India said that to meet the new situation after the war, new schemes, new plans, new policies needed to be devised and that a new adjustment was called for of many of the basic principles upon which public life rested at the time.

In the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly held in 1918, Sir M. Visvesvaraya observed that that year had been a trying one for the country. The war, the drought and the unparalleled epidemic of influenza which spread into this part of the country marked a distressing combination of calamities which pressed heavily on the population and especially on the poorer classes. The deficiency of food supplies was a common experience all the world over at that time. The position in Mysore was intensified by the almost entire failure of the south-west monsoon. A Director of Food Supplies was appointed in May 1918 to regulate railway traffic and among his other duties, he was asked to watch the prices of food grains and other necessities of life and to suggest measures from time to time to prevent cornering and holding up of stocks. All district officers were instructed to keep in close touch with the state of the market in their respective charges. These measures of vigilance were supplemented with others when it was found that the failure of the south-west monsoon unsettled the grain trade and caused a further rise in the prices. At the same time it was noticed

that large quantities of grain were being exported from some of the frontier taluks of the State to British India.

These circumstances necessitated greater precautions on the part of Government and a more elaborate organisation. In August 1918 to prevent a possible depletion of stocks, the export of food grains from the State was prohibited except under licences which were to be granted only after the issuing officer satisfied himself that the export was urgently required at the destination, was not abnormal in quantity or direction, and would not prejudicially affect the food requirements of the State. Lookouts or watching stations were established on the frontier roads to guard against the unauthorised export of food grains and to collect statistics of grain exported under licence. Frontier police parties were also organised to prevent surreptitious exports. These measures, however helpful in themselves, were found not fully effective in controlling the export of grain as several hundred miles of frontier required much more vigilance to guard than could be devised. Government thereupon in September and October took the additional step of fixing the maximum retail prices of the principal food grains in the districts of Bangalore, Tumkur, Hassan, Kolar and Mysore. But this measure had an altogether unlooked-for result as merchants and agriculturists alike became unwilling to part with their grain at the prescribed maximum rates and preferred to hold up stocks. The distress caused by higher prices synchronised with the wider spread of influenza all over the State.

The cumulative effect of all these adverse circumstances was that the position became serious in November 1918. Rice was actually sold at  $3\frac{1}{4}$  seers per rupee and ragi at 8 seers in Bangalore and even with these abnormally high prices the markets were indifferently supplied. The situation was then carefully reviewed and the policy to be pursued was explained by Sir M. Visvesvaraya at a public meeting at Bangalore held on the 16th November 1918. Detailed instructions were then issued to restrict more rigidly the exports, to compel people to declare stocks, to control movement of grain from village to village, from taluk to taluk, and from district to district, to license wholesale and retail merchants, to fix revised

maximum wholesale prices for ragi and rice and to fix a lower maximum for commandeering by Government. In order to work out the scheme, Mr. K. Mathan of the Mysore Civil Service who subsequently rose to be a member of the State Council was appointed a whole-time Food Controller.

At this time Sir M. Visvesvaraya went on leave from 10th December 1918 for six months prior to retirement and was succeeded by Sirdar M. Kantaraj Urs (afterwards Sir) who belonged to the first rank of noblemen in Mysore being the brother of the Dowager-Maharani who was Regent during the minority of her son Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV. Sir M. Kantaraj Urs was born in 1870 and received his early education in the Maharaja's College at Mysore and then joining the Madras Christian College took the B.A. Degree in 1894. He was appointed to the Mysore Service as a probationary Assistant Commissioner and then became Assistant Private Secretary to his sister the Maharani-Regent. He rose to the position of a Member of the State Council in 1913 and continued to hold that place till he was appointed Dewan. He was however not able to take charge of his office till 14th June 1919 on account of illness, and in the meanwhile, Mr. Albion Banerji (afterwards Sir) of the Madras Civil Service, then First Member of the State Council, acted as Dewan. Sir M. Kantaraj Urs was the first Dewan who had no connection either with the Mysore Commission or with the British Service outside the State.

Now reverting to the events of the aftermath of the war, the immediate effect of the more rigid control of food grains was to slightly lower their prices but the effect was temporary. Merchants lost all incentive to bring grain to the market and the agriculturists more tightly held up stocks and only parted with small quantities under compulsion, as the maximum prices fixed were far below the actual market price. Clandestine sales continued in greater volume and frequency, leaving Government powerless to deal with such cases under penalties. The only alternative left for Government was to commandeer stocks to supply areas where there was distress and this was proceeded with. Rice and ragi were supplied to Shimoga, Kolar and Kadur districts and also to the two cities of

Bangalore and Mysore. Two provincial depots were opened in Bangalore and Tumkur and depots at all district and most of the taluk headquarters were also opened according to necessity. From the middle of November to the end of December 1918 nearly 43,000 pallas of food grains were commandeered and this stock was largely supplemented by imports of rice from Burma and elsewhere. Notwithstanding all these expedients, it was found impossible for Government to keep the markets supplied by their own unaided efforts.

The situation was necessarily reconsidered in the light of actual experience and more reliable data. A relaxation of the rules controlling internal trade was then ordered in the hope expressed on all sides that supplies would be more readily coming to the market, Government retaining the power to commandeer at their own rates whenever they considered that there was need to do so. According to this policy, while exports from the State were strictly regulated, all restrictions on internal traffic were withdrawn. Agriculturists and merchants were allowed to sell at their own rate according to the conditions of the market. It was no doubt anticipated that an immediate rise in prices would result from these measures. But this was considered less of a public evil than a total absence of supplies in the markets which was beginning to be felt in every district, people depending entirely on supplies commandeered by Government and sold at below market rates. The strain on Government depots everywhere came almost to a breaking point when not only the poor for whom they were intended but others also resorted in large numbers. Accordingly the attempt to bring under regulation not only export trade but also internal traffic as well as the wholesale and retail distribution of foodstuffs was given up in January and February 1919, and a modified policy was adopted of an absolute control over exports and imported rice and limited control over available stocks to meet emergent demands in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore, district headquarters and other places only for the purpose of bringing relief to the poor.

A preliminary census of foodstuffs was taken in October 1918 and a more detailed one in December following. According to the



figures received, the stock of food-grains on the 10th December 1918 was 3,06,493 pallas of rice, 15,78,784 pallas of ragi, 1,51,191 pallas of Jola and 36,044 pallas of Navane, a palla being equal to 100 measuring seers. The new harvest was estimated to yield 12,89,134 pallas of rice, 30,77,817 pallas of ragi, 7,79,470 pallas of Jola and 1,78,416 pallas of Navane. The total supply of all kinds of food-grains was calculated to be sufficient for about 8 months assuming the rate per head of population to be 2 pallas per annum. Whatever policy the Government pursued, there was one point on which there was unanimous agreement at this time, namely, total prohibition of export of food-grains from the State subject only to the fulfilment of the obligations to allow a certain quantity to be exported to Madras, Hosur, Wynad, the Nilgiris and Coorg. In regard to this policy however, a serious difficulty arose when the Government of India sought the co-operation of the Mysore Durbar in the matter of relaxing inter-provincial restrictions in respect of minor food-grains. But the difficulty was overcome by the Government of India permitting the Mysore Government to import in exchange for an equivalent of ragi and pulses sufficient quantities of rice from Burma, Bengal and Madras, as the quantity of rice grown in the State was not enough for the consumption of the people of the State even during normal years. Various inducements were also offered to the ryots to grow more grain under the Marikanave and Kannambadi channels and under other tanks, chiefly in the shape of cash advances for the purchase of seed grains and manures, or remission of wet assessment on failure of crops.

Though the agricultural season in 1919 was propitious and yielded a liberal harvest, it was found that in the following year the prices did not show a diminution but remained at about 113 per cent above the pre-war level as against 143 per cent in July 1919. All restrictions against the export of food continued therefore to be maintained, local supplies also being augmented by large imports of rice from Burma as the only effective means against profiteering. By May 1921, however, as it was found that the markets were all adequately supplied with the necessary grains, the food depots were all closed, the post of Food Controller was abolished and all

restrictions on the export of food grains were withdrawn from the end of June of the same year.

Another effect of the aftermath of the war was the unsettlement caused in the revenues of the State. During the regime of Sir M. Visvesvaraya, both the income as well as the expenditure increased largely. But the increased expenditure was well within the growth of revenue and the surplus in the year 1917-18 was as large as Rs. 52½ lakhs. In the very next year however, the position transformed itself into one of a small deficit. It became necessary therefore to constantly maintain strict scrutiny over all kinds of expenditure and for this purpose the Budget Finance Committee was reorganised and strengthened. After the reorganisation, this committee came to consist of six officials and the same number of non-official members, with one of the members of Government as chairman. Of the six non-official members, two were from among the members of the Representative Assembly by election, one from the Legislative Council and the remaining three were nominated by Government.

Notwithstanding all the care taken, the decrease in revenue persisted on account of high prices, increased cost of living, unstable exchange and inflated currency as well as a shrinkage under certain heads of revenue. Taking the effect of variations in exchange first, the main items of State revenue realised in England were the Royalty payable by the Gold Mining Companies, receipts on account of electric power sold to the Mines and the proceeds of the sale of sandalwood oil. The average annual income under these heads was hitherto Rs. 60 lakhs at the old rate of 1s. 4d. the rupee. The Committee on Indian Exchange and Currency recommended a higher exchange rate for India, the reason among others being that it would not only serve to keep down prices but also would effect a saving in the charges incurred in England. The Government of India accepted this recommendation and as a consequence, the exchange rate became as high as 2s. a rupee. The decrease in receipts for the Mysore Government in the year 1920 amounted to Rs. 13.47 lakhs, of which about Rs. 10½ lakhs was

entirely due to the rise in exchange and the remainder to diminished demands for sandalwood oil and tanning bark.

The Government now considered that a stage had been reached at which it was inadvisable to trench further upon the accumulated balances at its credit without jeopardising the capacity of Government to meet current liabilities, it being at the same time found impossible to curtail to any material extent their commitments towards capital expenditure. It became therefore necessary for Government to resort to public loans and to additional taxation to meet their obligations. Accordingly, for the execution of capital works a new loan was floated, the terms of which were announced in July 1920. Prior to the flotation of this new loan, the 4 per cent loan of Rs. 20 lakhs raised in 1906 had been converted into one of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent with a currency of 25 years. Two issues were now offered with a view to meet the varying requirements of investors. One was a seven year loan carrying interest at 7 per cent issued at par and the other was a  $6\frac{1}{2}$  per cent long-term loan repayable in 20 to 30 years at par and issued at  $97\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The loans were kept open for subscription for 3 months through the whole of India. The limit to the loan was fixed at 2 crores which was over subscribed. A large amount of subscriptions was received from outside the State testifying to the confidence placed in its credit. The wisdom of establishing the Bank of Mysore was now proved by the active help it gave in placing the loan on the market.

To overcome the difficulty that no adequate return could be expected from the capital works till they were completed while an increase in revenue was urgently required to restore equilibrium between the receipts and expenditure, it also became necessary to resort to additional taxation. Mr. Datta the financial expert had expressed the opinion that Government servants, members of the learned professions, bankers and large industrial concerns in Mysore did not contribute their proper quota of general taxation and the only way to reach them was by the imposition of an income-tax. There were also a large number of persons and companies from outside Mysore who enjoyed the benefits

of an advanced administration but paid no tax on their income. A Bill to levy income-tax was accordingly introduced in the Legislative Council and was passed into law in June 1920. At about the same time, an increase was made to the rates of general stamps as well as of court fees. In the first year of the working of the Income-Tax Regulation, the total revenue derived was Rs. 14 lakhs and the number of assesseees was 4209.

At the same time, retrenchment measures also became necessary because of the practically stationary character of the revenues, coupled with the substantial increase in the standard of expenditure for some time past. The increased cost of living had necessitated the grant of relief to the subordinate services to the extent of Rs. 20 lakhs per annum, the cost of the upkeep of the army during the German War as well as the higher prices paid for materials and other necessities for the different service departments had swelled the expenditure. Land revenue which was the mainstay of the resources of the State was practically steady at Rs. 107 lakhs showing little sign of development. The other heads of revenue also showed no perceptible progress except Excise which notwithstanding the increased rates at which the intoxicants were sold to the drinking population, far from showing a diminution was attended with a tendency to show an increase. In February 1922 a special committee was appointed consisting of four non-officials presided over by Sir K. P. Puttanna Chetty to review the State's finances and to formulate proposals for wiping out the deficit and for restoring financial equilibrium. Of the proposals made by this committee for the improvement of revenue as well as for the reduction of expenditure, almost half the number was accepted by Government.

On the 1st May 1922 Sir M. Kantaraj Urs retired from his appointment having again been taken ill and Mr. A. R. Banerji (afterwards Sir) was made permanent Dewan. While holding office, he showed himself as possessed of a genuine desire to advance the interests of the country of his birth, though in his efforts he laboured under considerable handicap on account of physical weakness caused by ill-health,

## **CHAPTER XXXV.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Administrative and other Improvements—1919-25.**

##### **Outbreak of Influenza.**

On account of an outbreak of influenza in 1918 there was widespread distress as well as loss of life throughout the State, which numbered about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lakhs of persons or 2.9 per cent of the total population. The Government spent large sums in relief measures and it was brought home that an effective organisation for medical relief, prevention of epidemics and improvement of sanitation and public health both in towns and villages was necessary and urgent, and a committee was accordingly appointed to investigate the subject and formulate a scheme.

##### **Education.**

The Scout Movement was established in the Mysore State in the year 1919 and continued to make good progress. In the matter of women's education, the college and collegiate high school classes maintained in the Maharani's College were transferred to the control of the University. The education of the Panchamas or Adi-karnatakas as they are called now received particular attention during this period. The Central Panchama Boarding School at Mysore was raised to the status of a Kanada High School with separate sections for industrial and normal training. To further stimulate education among the Panchamas, special concessions were granted in the shape of scholarships, travelling allowance to and from schools to pupils learning English, free supply of books and slates, and allowances to parents while the children were under training in schools. Next as regards fees, all fees in middle schools were abolished from the year 1918-19, education below the high school grade being imparted absolutely free to all communities. In regard to the higher grades of education, increased facilities were afforded to the poorer classes of all communities by providing freeships and scholarships on a liberal scale, in addition to the special encouragement given to the backward communities.

In May 1921 Government passed orders on an educational memorandum which had been drawn up containing a programme for the spread of primary education in the State. The most important measures indicated in the memorandum and sanctioned now were the gradual conversion of aided village primary schools to Government institutions, the development of vernacular middle schools into anglo-vernacular schools of a uniform type, the combination of practical with literary instruction and the establishment of a large number of industrial schools, the extension of the course of normal training, the provision of special facilities for the education of Panchamas and the revision of the scale of pay of all appointments in the tutorial line as well as of the inspectorate. The execution of this programme was calculated to involve an additional expenditure ranging from Rs. 21 to Rs. 41 lakhs in the course of five years. To meet this heavy expenditure, the levy of an education cess under the Local Boards and Municipal Regulations was determined upon to enable the Local Bodies to contribute towards the cost of primary education both in rural as well as in urban areas.

After a year's experience however, it was found that the progress made under the educational memorandum was slow owing mainly to want of funds. The percentage of expenditure on education to the total revenues was already about 14 including revenues derived from capital and industrial works. The percentage to normal revenues was 17. To carry out the education programme, it had been calculated that a cess of one anna in the rupee would be raised by all the District Boards on certain items of revenue and of two annas in the rupee by City Municipalities and one anna in the rupee by the other Municipalities. It was however found in 1924 that the anticipations of the Government in the matter of raising sufficient funds by means of an education cess had not been realised and that the amount so far realised was only Rs. 2,92,000. It was also found that only five districts had taken action in the matter, while the remaining three districts and practically all the Municipalities had remained indifferent. Even where the cess was levied, it was only half an anna in the rupee as against one anna suggested in the Government

Order on the memorandum. The financial basis of the memorandum therefore, it was found, required serious consideration.

#### **Development of Local Self-Government.**

In 1919 the constitution of the Taluk and District Boards were defined in accordance with the Taluk Boards and Village Panchayets Regulation VI of 1918 and rules were also framed for making due provision for the representation of important interests and communities on these Boards. The Town and Minor Municipal Councils were permitted to elect their own Vice-Presidents. The development of economic work in the districts which was hitherto being managed by the District and Taluk Progress Committees was transferred in 1920 to the District and Taluk Boards. The Municipal Regulation of 1906 was amended by Regulation III of 1921 making suitable provision for conduct of work relating to economic development by the Municipalities. The Local Boards and Village Panchayets Regulation was also amended to render it obligatory on the part of the Local Boards to devote attention to economic development and to levy an education cess. One noticeable advance under Local Boards administration was the grant of the privilege of electing a President to the Bangalore District Board and the appointment of non-official gentlemen as Presidents for the District Boards of Kolar and Hassan. All the District Boards now came to have non-official Vice-Presidents.

A Local Self-Government Conference was held in the year 1923 and 48 resolutions were submitted to Government for consideration. The conference recommended the abolition of Village Improvement Committees and urged the constitution of Panchayets for all villages in the State on a statutory basis. This measure had been repeatedly urged for consideration ever since the introduction of the village improvement scheme and the Government now accepted the recommendation of the conference to constitute a Panchayet for every village or group of villages in the State. Each Panchayet was to consist of not less than 5 and not more than 12 members, at least half of whom were to be elected. The chairman of the Panchayet was to be nominated by Government in the initial stages, the right of election being

conceded when the Panchayets were well established and showed satisfactory work. The functions of the Panchayets were classified under two heads—obligatory and optional, the former including village sanitation and communications and the latter all other items of work which promoted the health, convenience or comfort of the inhabitants. Provision was made for investing select Panchayets with powers under the Village Courts and Tank Panchayet Regulations and Forest Panchayet Rules and also for the transfer of the control over Muzrai institutions and supervision over village elementary schools. To enable the Panchayets to function efficiently they were empowered to levy taxes on houses, shops, vacant sites and backyards, the rural Mohatarfa taxes being abolished. The Amildar was invested with the powers of control, inspection and supervision of the Panchayets in order to provide for close and efficient supervision over their working.

On the introduction of the Panchayet scheme, the Government expressed readiness to abolish all the Taluk Boards and thereby allow the District Boards a freer scope to attend to all the district, taluk, inter-taluk and inter-village services under sanitation, communications, medical relief and other services. The removal of the intermediary agency of the Taluk Boards left the District Boards a free hand in developing the larger local interests in the districts, while securing to them greater control over their finances and concentration of funds in their hands. The franchise was extended to women to vote at elections to the District Boards. Besides the Kolar Gold Fields Sanitary Board constituted for the special sanitation of the mining area under the Mines Regulation, there were in 1924-25 eight District Boards.

As regards Municipalities, the resolutions of the conference did not recommend any radical changes either in their constitution or functions. The more important of the recommendations of the conference accepted by Government were—1. the elected element in the Minor Municipal Councils was raised from one-third to half the strength of the Municipal Council; 2. franchise was extended to women to vote at elections; 3. the Presidents of City and Town Municipal Councils were ordinarily to be elected and it was



also accepted that the election might be made by the general body of voters instead of by the Municipal Councils concerned.

### **Industries and Commerce.**

During the period up to the end of 1925 after the termination of the world war, anticipating the recommendations of the Indian Industrial Commission, the development of industries was recognised as one of the primary duties of Government. As a consequence, following the example of the British Indian Provinces, a well-equipped Department of Industries and Commerce came into existence in Mysore also. The establishment of the Sandalwood Oil Factory—a direct product of the war—was found not only to have rescued a valuable source of revenue which had been seriously threatened during the war, but also demonstrated the practicability of carrying on a chemical industry producing a medicinal oil of a high degree of purity with the assistance of the chemists trained in the local colleges. The Soap and the Metal factories established by the Department of Industries also gave promise of success. The Commercial Section of the department issued for the first time a review of the railborne trade for the year 1918-19 and also a report regarding the road traffic of the State and helped the formation of an Association of grain merchants in Bangalore. In 1921 the administration of the Industries Department was entrusted to Mr. P. G. D'Souza, a member of the Mysore Civil Service who had been specially deputed to Europe and America to study the industrial and commercial developments and organisations in the countries of those continents. The concerns under the control of the Industries and Commerce Department at this time were the Soap Factory, the Central Industrial Workshop, the Metal Factory, the Art Workshop, the Weaving Factory and the Arts and Crafts Depot. Some of these were started as pioneer concerns, while others were established partly for training and demonstration purposes and partly as commercial concerns. In January 1923 the department was reorganised and the control over industrial education transferred to it. In this year Government also granted certain concessions for the establishment of a Match Factory in the State,

In April 1924 there was an exhibition in London of the resources of all parts of the British Empire. The Mysore Government participated in this exhibition in a manner befitting the importance of the State and its varied resources. A special Mysore court was established with a floor space of about 1200 square feet occupying a prominent position in the Indian pavilion. Mr. S. G. Sastry who was at this time Industrial Chemist to the department was placed in charge of this court. The exhibits from Mysore won the appreciation of all the visitors to the Mysore court and the opportunity afforded by the exhibition was utilised for finding new markets for the surplus products of the State.

According to the statistics gathered, it was found in 1924 that there were for a year imports of Rs. 1.69 crores worth of grain and pulses, Rs. 3.88 crores worth of yarn and textiles, Rs. 67.67 lakhs worth of oils and Rs. 124 lakhs worth of drugs and chemicals; and exports of Rs. 47 lakhs worth of oil seeds, Rs. 68 lakhs worth of cotton, Rs. 23.66 lakhs worth of hides and skins and Rs. 29 lakhs worth of unmanufactured leather, Rs. 37 lakhs worth of silk and Rs. 58 lakhs worth of sugar and jaggery. These figures indicated that Mysore was being exploited for its valuable raw materials. Its food production was insufficient and the people of the State had to go outside for many of their requirements which could very well be provided within the State itself. It was also found that the balance of trade had gone against the State for a number of years. In 1922-23 the balance of railborne trade that had gone against the State was Rs. 178 lakhs, but in the subsequent year it turned in favour of the State to the extent of Rs. 75 lakhs. This result however was found to be due more to the decrease of imports of commodities like salt, sugar, piece-goods, coal, machinery and provisions than to any increase in the exports which remained stationary.

The bulk of the trade remained in the hands of outside middlemen. Large quantities of piece-goods were usually imported into Bangalore whence they were exported to various centres. A major portion of the money required for financing this trade was found to have come from outside and the profits derived from these

transactions were estimated at nearly a crore of rupees. It may be said, however, that these figures related only to railborne trade and did not show the position of Mysore as a whole by taking into computation the Malnad trade in the important products of coffee, paddy, cardamom, areca and jaggery and the exports of silk to Kollegal in the Coimbatore district by road. The statistics gathered also went to show that the question of increased food production was one of great importance. Action was taken by Government in this direction by throwing open for cultivation a number of Amrut Mahal grass reserves and date groves to the extent of above 50,000 acres.

#### **Sericulture.**

In 1919 there were 10 taluk sericultural schools distributed throughout the sericultural parts of the State and at 8 of them the sons of ryots received training in improved methods. A silk expert from Japan was now engaged for the general development of the silk industry and was also entrusted with the control of all research and experimental work in the State. A lady expert from Japan was also engaged for the introduction of foot-reeling as a home industry. The Government grainages supplied large quantities of disease-free eggs but as the demand was larger than the supply could meet, a scheme for the establishment of private grainages under departmental supervision was also introduced.

## **CHAPTER XXXVI.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Administrative and other Improvements—1919-25.**

In the year 1921 a long-standing grievance received solution to some extent which was to the advantage of the land-holders. The holders of lands under tanks had been placed under obligation under the rules of the Survey Settlement to pay the wet assessment on their holdings whether the tank received a sufficient supply of water or not. At the meetings of the Representative Assembly this subject was being repeatedly pressed and now Government came to a decision that whenever in any tract not less than half the total cultivable area or atchkat was left uncultivated in any year, or if cultivated, did not yield more than a quarter of the normal yield, the collection of half the assessment was to be postponed for a year and if similar conditions prevailed during the following year also, the suspended assessment was to be remitted. This measure was to some extent a departure from the established principles of Survey and Settlement as introduced in Mysore. In Mysore the Bombay system of Settlement was, as we have seen, followed under which wet lands were classed with reference to the capacity of the tanks to supply them with water for irrigation and the assessment on them was fixed with reference to the average of a series of years good and bad, making sufficient allowance for occasional deficiencies of rainfall and other vicissitudes. A system of assessment however under which a soil assessment and a water assessment are separately imposed on wet lands and the water assessment is remitted when no water is given for irrigation is regarded as more equitable on account of its simplicity and elasticity, though in practice some difficulties may be encountered.

#### **Encouragement to Coffee Industry.**

In 1924 a Bill to impose a cess on coffee grown in the State was introduced in the Legislative Council. Coffee, as we have seen, was in the beginning used to be cultivated in the State on Waram or produce-sharing system. Subsequently a halat or a cash levy

was introduced which varied from four annas to one rupee per maund of produce. On account of the great fluctuations in prices subsequently, a system of acreage assessment of Re. 1 per acre for temporary and Rs. 1-8-0 per acre for permanent tenures was next substituted. The Bill referred to was now introduced not as a money bill to add to the general revenues of the State but was intended to give special assistance to an important industry which was in need of special attention. But the terms on which the coffee lands were given were not the same as those applying to the agricultural lands in general. It was regarded that when Government gave lands on concession terms, it was not to be expected that the whole cost of special investigations or of special facilities leading to an increase in the outturn of the industry concerned should be defrayed from the general revenues of the State. The industry however had passed through a series of vicissitudes for the past some years and deserved some encouragement, and the main object of this legislation was to establish a principle of mutual co-operation between the Government and the people where special circumstances warranted a generous treatment. This Bill was passed into law in the year 1926. In this connection, it may be mentioned that the supari or areca cess as a separate cess was abolished in this period as the industry enjoyed no special concessions and as it was also felt that it was the duty of the Department of Agriculture to help the supari growers with advice and to suggest the necessary remedies against causes that interfered with supari cultivation.

#### **The Bhadravathi Iron Works.**

After the difficulties due to the war for obtaining the requisite machinery from foreign countries had been overcome, the Bhadravathi Iron Works were started. Messrs. Tata & Sons were appointed agents and a Board of Management was also appointed. The construction of the plant in the Iron Works was for the most part completed by December 1922 and the blast furnace started working from the 18th January 1923. In June 1924 the agreement concluded with the Tata Iron and Steel Company was terminated by mutual consent.

### **Krishnarajasagara Hydro-Electric Works.**

By 1921 the first stage of the Krishnarajasagara Reservoir as the Kannambadi tank was now named was nearly completed. The power generated at Sivasamudram with the first three installations which were in existence when the dam was commenced was 13,000 H.P. With the finishing of the first stage of the dam, the power generated increased from 13,000 H.P. to 32,000 H.P. On the completion of the sixth installation, the storage in the reservoir was expected to enable the Government to develop irrigation to the extent of about 70,000 acres.

With regard to the further raising of the storage capacity of the Krishnarajasagara reservoir, there arose a dispute between the Mysore Government and the Government of Madras as to the extent of their respective rights to share the waters of the river. A conference took place at Mysore on the 13th November 1923 at which Lord Willingdon then Governor of Madras was present and Sir Albion Banerji the Dewan represented Mysore. After full discussion lasting for some period, an agreement was arrived at between the two Governments in February 1924 and this agreement was subsequently ratified by the Secretary of State for India. By this agreement it became possible for the Mysore Government to bring under cultivation more than  $2\frac{1}{4}$  lakhs of acres of land.

### **The Co-operative Committee.**

In the year 1920 the Government appointed a committee of 10 members consisting of officials and non-officials, with the Hon'ble Sir Lallubhai Samaldas Mehta of Bombay as chairman to examine the progress of co-operation in the State and to suggest lines of further development. The Committee toured in all the districts and submitted their report to Government in 1923. As proposed in the report of the Committee, an Apex Bank was established in the year 1925.

### **Tank Restoration.**

Notwithstanding the extreme solicitude shown by Government for the proper restoration of all the irrigation tanks in the State, the progress was found to be extremely slow. The ryots profiting by a

tank were expected to contribute all the earthwork required, while the Government's share consisted in completing the stonework. Next, it was made optional for the ryot to pay a money value for his share of the work. After some time, this optional commutation of labour into money was made a compulsory levy and the total contribution was made recoverable in five equal instalments. These changes however brought no increased efficiency in the work of restoration and in agreement with the views expressed both in the Representative Assembly as well as in the Legislative Council a new amended Tank Regulation was brought into force by Government from September 1923. By the change effected by this Regulation the voluntary contribution was converted into a compulsory levy of one-fourth the estimated cost of the work. The duty of executing the repairs was taken out of the hands of the Revenue Department and entrusted to those of the Public Works. The latter were also directed to proceed with the work without waiting for the recovery of the contribution as in the past, once the estimate was sanctioned.

### **The Public Service and the Backward Communities.**

In the year 1920-21 the Government passed orders to increase the representation of the backward communities in the service of the State. So long ago as 1892, in considering the question of recruitment to the civil service Sir K. Seshadri Iyer referring to the question of maintaining a fair proportion of all classes in the service of the State had remarked of the Brahmin community that it was already too well represented. During the tenure of Sir. M. Visvesvaraya's office as Dewan, several measures were adopted for securing the increased representation of non-Brahmin communities in the Public Service. In 1914 a somewhat lower scale of qualification for appointments of Amildars was prescribed for non-Brahmin candidates. In 1915 this principle was extended to the class of Shekdars or Revenue Inspectors. In 1916 it was directed that 25 per cent of the appointments was to be given to qualified members of the non-Brahmin communities. In August 1918 the Government in appointing a committee of six non-official gentlemen presided over by Sir Leslie Miller, Chief Judge of the Chief Court,

wished that as there was at the time a large preponderance of the Brahmin community in the Public Service, measures should be devised for the adequate representation of all communities. The committee submitted their report in August 1919 and in May 1921 the Government decided that, provided qualified candidates were available, the proportion of the members of the backward communities in all departments of the State Service was to be gradually raised to 50 per cent of the total strength in 7 years, exclusive of those in inferior service. To achieve this end the Government directed that during this period of seven years candidates belonging to the backward communities were to be given preference in respect of initial appointments so long as they possessed the prescribed qualifications. A Central Recruitment Board was also instituted with one of the members of the State Council as chairman to register all applications for appointments and to put applicants in touch with offices where vacancies existed and also to serve as a vigilance committee for watching the administration of the rules.

### **The Problem of Unemployment.**

By 1923 it came to be felt that a very large number of graduates and under-graduates were being annually turned out of the University who could not find employment. Some attempt was made as proposed by the University to equip it for teaching not merely the arts and humanities and the pure sciences but also the application of science to agricultural, technological and vocational subjects, thereby opening fresh fields of employment. Sir Albion Banerji in September 1925 in his speech at the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly summed up the results of the extension of collegiate and secondary education in these words: "Since the Mysore University was started, it has turned out 85 M.A.'s, 963 B.A.'s and 197 B.Sc.'s. According to the statistics of the Central Recruitment Board, no less than 405 graduates and 517 candidates with under-graduate qualifications and 2708 Secondary School Certificate holders applied for Government Service but failed to secure any post. The total number of appointments in all grades in the State Service is about 20,000, of which appointments



those on a pay of above Rs. 100 are one thousand and the rest are those carrying a salary of Rs. 15 and above up to Rs. 100. The percentage of school-going population who now come up for higher grades of education is increasing gradually from year to year. All our high schools are over-crowded and split up into innumerable sections. The middle schools are filled to overflowing and as regards primary schools, Government cannot open them as fast as is necessary to meet the demands of the people. As circumstances stand at present, general education is only a passport to Government Service. The inevitable result is that all those who are qualified according to certain prescribed standards knock at the door of Government for employment and the majority of them cannot be absorbed as the scope is limited. That is the problem of unemployment..... In the course of the past 4½ years the total number of appointments made by Government through the Recruitment Board came only to 2410. When we compare these with the total number of applications which came to 28,000, it is pitiful to imagine the distress, the disappointment and the hardship that these poor, unfortunate candidates may now be labouring under, if during the period of their whole educational career their one object was to seek a Government appointment.....”

### **Railways.**

The metre-gauge line from Chikjajur to Chitaldrug 21 miles was opened for traffic in May 1921. The State had now over 400 miles of open lines owned by it under its management, including the Nanjangud-Bangalore and Birur-Shimoga sections, a total length of nearly 140 miles which were resumed from the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Company on 1st October 1919, besides 275½ miles worked for it by the same Company and they constituted a valuable asset worth about Rs. 5 crores.

Owing to various urgent demands on the finances of Government, the chief of them being the Krishnarajasagara and the Iron Works schemes, sufficient allotments could not be made for railway construction and proposals were now made to some of the District Boards to ascertain whether they could raise any capital in the districts to complete the construction of the unfinished

lines, so that they might be part-proprietors with the Government of such railways. The Mysore District Board accordingly came forward to make the Nanjangud-Chamarajanagar line their own concern and the Board was authorised to float a loan with Government guarantee to resume the construction of this railway.

### **Unprecedented Floods.**

In July 1924 there were unprecedented floods in five of the districts of the State, rising to a height of 30 feet in some of the rivers. In the Mysore district the valleys of the Kaveri, Kapini, Hemavathi and minor tributaries like the Taraka were seriously affected. One hundred and two villages, besides the towns of Nanjangud, Yedatore (Krishnarajanagara as it is now called), Seringapatam and T-Narsipur suffered the heaviest and nearly 4000 houses collapsed in this area and property to the extent of nearly Rs. 3½ lakhs was destroyed. Public roads, tanks, channels and anakats were breached in several places and traffic was interrupted. The Nanjangud road and railway bridge and also the Wellesley Bridge at Seringapatam were seriously threatened and suffered considerable damage. Nearly 8000 acres of land were damaged and portions entirely washed away. In the Shimoga district besides the town of Shimoga which was inundated, fifteen important villages on the banks of the Thunga and the Bhadra suffered badly. In Shimoga 735 houses were under water, of which 250 collapsed. In other places the total number of houses lost was estimated at about 1000. Agricultural lands also suffered as in the Mysore district. In the Kadur district there happened no serious damage to the villages, but paddy lands suffered severely and caused considerable loss to the agriculturists. In the Hassan district the damage was slight except that nearly 100 houses were lost, Ramnathpur being the worst sufferer. The damages to the roads, channels and anakats also contributed to the agricultural distress. In the Chitaldrug district Harihar suffered much.

Various relief parties were sent to the affected parts with funds and provisions to help the villagers who had been rendered homeless and destitute by this unprecedented visitation and to re-settle them by providing them with suitable sites higher up and nearby.

On account of the promptness of the official aid and help from the people in general, no lives were lost and much of the property that otherwise would have been lost was saved.

A public meeting was held at Mysore on the 2nd August 1924 in the Rangacharlu Memorial Hall to express sympathy with those who suffered from the floods and to organise relief measures for them. A meeting was also held at Bangalore on the 8th of the same month to organise a Central Flood Relief Committee with His Highness the Yuvaraja as chairman. The Government of India sent a message expressing their deep concern at the loss and the suffering caused by the floods and H. E. the Viceroy also conveyed to His Highness the Maharaja his personal sympathy with those who had suffered. The Servants of India Society collected subscriptions and materially helped in affording relief. The Kolar Gold Field Mining Board also did the same and the Maharaja contributed Rs. 15,000 from the privy purse.

## **CHAPTER XXXVII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Proposals to place the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council on a reformed basis.**

In the year 1902 when the present Maharaja assumed the reins of Government, no meeting of the Representative Assembly was held on account of the virulence of the plague which prevailed in the State during the season of the Dasara festivities. On the 5th October 1903 His Highness was able to open the Assembly personally when it met as usual in that year at Mysore. His Highness at the very start stated that the decision of the previous year to postpone the meeting was taken with much reluctance and acknowledged that one of the conspicuous results of the establishment of the Assembly was the consolidation of a sense of common interest between the Government and the people.

In the Dasara Session of 1913 a proposition was brought forward by the members of the Assembly that a second session should be held, as one sitting in a year for a few days was not enough to deal adequately with all the subjects which the representatives brought forward. Of the prominent speakers on this subject at the time may be mentioned the names of Ramanuja Iyengar of Gubbi, C. Srinivasa Rao of Chickmagalur, Amble Anniah Pandit, M. Venkatakrishniah of Mysore, D. Venkataramiah of Bangalore. In this year certain rules were for the first time issued for the discussion of subjects in the Assembly. It was laid down that every subject was to be first introduced and explained by the member or one of the members by whom it was sent up to Government and that any other member who wished to speak on the subject might follow. The members introducing the subject were given the right to close the discussion with a reply.

The system of triennial election was, as we have seen, instituted in 1894 and on the occasion of the 8th such election in 1915 the election rules were slightly revised, the candidates being required to notify their desire to stand for election one month

before the date fixed for such election. The dates for the several preliminary events such as the submission of the representations to be brought forward, the district meeting for the selection of subjects were all fixed a month earlier than usual. The number of representatives due to be returned was fixed at 290.

The privilege of holding a second session of the Assembly every year was granted by the Maharaja in 1917, and in April of that year when the second session was held for the first time, the State budget was placed before it for discussion prior to its going to the Legislative Council. A new procedure for the preliminary investigation of questions by means of committees was adopted. This procedure, it was expected, if properly developed would facilitate the work of the Assembly by placing before it concrete issues or definite recommendations formulated after a thorough study of the questions by members specially interested in them. The change was intended also to provide special opportunities to members to make constructive proposals for the consideration of Government in matters in which they took an interest.

Among the committees appointed was one to discuss and report on the constitution and improvement of the Assembly itself. In passing orders on this report in April 1918 the Government introduced certain changes in the constitution of the Assembly. Firstly, the electorate was broadened by the adoption for all taluks in the State of a uniform qualification of the payment of land revenue of Rs. 50 or of a Mohatarfa payment of Rs. 10 per annum. Secondly, the distinction between the qualification for voting and for membership was abolished, thereby rendering it identical for both, and thirdly the privilege of interpellation on matters of public interest subject to certain restrictions were granted. Subsequently a re-distribution of the seats was also made in order to provide larger representation to Municipalities.

In his concluding remarks at the close of the meeting of the Representative Assembly in April 1918, the Dewan Sir M. Visvesvaraya pointed out that till then members brought up individual subjects of varying degrees of importance, but that in the

future, time had to be found not only for such subjects but also for large questions previously reported upon by special committees and for budget debate and interpellations. Thenceforward it was necessary for the Assembly, the Dewan further said, to curtail greatly individual complaints and specific subjects and for the members to give increased attention to large schemes, comprehensive proposals and general principles of progress, not to speak of attempts to place correct ideals before the public to mould their habits and thoughts properly.

On the 13th October 1919 the question of the time for holding the second session of the Assembly was discussed and on the suggestion of Amble Anniah Pandit and other members, it was settled that the second session should begin every year a few days prior to the Birthday of the Maharaja.

In 1920 the term of office of the members deputed by the Municipal Councils and other corporate bodies was raised from one to three years so as to be in agreement with that of the members returned from the taluk electorates, as the term of one year was found too short for any useful work and the change also avoided the drawback of re-elections to the Legislative Council from the Representative Assembly in the case of members elected by that Assembly. Provision was also made for bye-elections when vacancies occurred. Retired officers of the Mysore State troops were given the privilege of voting for members as well as standing for membership.

In July 1921 a deputation of ladies interested in the subject of women's franchise waited on the Dewan Sir M. Kantaraj Urs and pressed for the removal of sex disqualification in the matter of voting for and election to the Representative Assembly, the Legislative Council and Local and Municipal bodies. This subject was also discussed in the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly of the same year.

In 1922 the Legislative Council had in addition to the Dewan and Members of Council a strength of 30, of whom 12 were officials and 18 were non-officials. The functions of this Council

as they stood at the time comprised—(1) legislation (2) discussion of the budget (3) interpellations and (4) moving of resolutions, which power had been conceded in 1919. Certain subjects such as the Subsidy payable to the British Government, the Civil List, Military Forces were outside the competence of the Council. No measure could also be introduced without the previous sanction in writing of the Dewan.

It was now felt that the time had come to take a further step forward in the policy of associating the people more and more with the Government and increasing the popular element in the administration and accordingly a re-constitution of both the Representative Assembly as well as of the Legislative Council was decided upon, based on past experience of the working of these institutions. The general principles on which the reconstitution was to be based were clearly enunciated.

The Representative Assembly was to have a definite place in the constitution of the State. The qualifications for voters were to be substantially reduced so as to extend the franchise to a considerable extent. The sex disqualification for voters was to be removed. No new tax was to be levied without previously consulting the Assembly. This Assembly was also to have the right of moving resolutions on matters relating to the public administration and also on the annual State budget. It was to be consulted in regard to all important legislative measures. The legislative programme of the year was to be placed before it at the Dasara Session and the general principles of the Bills were to be discussed. In cases where legislation was introduced in the Legislative Council before discussion in the Assembly, the Maharaja's consent was ordinarily to be reserved till the next session of the Assembly. The strength of the Assembly was to be fixed at about 200, provision being also made for the representation of minorities and of special interests by nomination, if necessary. The Dewan was to continue to be the President of the Assembly, while the Members of the State Council were to be Vice-Presidents. Local subjects were not, as a rule, to be brought before the Assembly but were to go before the District Boards whose functions were to be enlarged.

The strength of the Legislative Council was to be increased and fixed at not less than 40 and not more than 50 members. The number of members elected from the Representative Assembly to this body was to be substantially increased. Provision was to be made for the representation of special interests such as industries and commerce, planting, educational, minorities. This Council was also to be given the power of voting on the annual State budget by major heads in respect of all items of expenditure except those affecting the Palace, the military, pensions of public servants and the political relations with the British Government. In particular cases where this Council refused its assent to a provision in the budget or reduced it, it was to be open to the Government to restore the provision, if they considered it essential.

All matters relating to the internal administration of the State were to be thrown open for discussion both in the Representative Assembly as well as in the Legislative Council except those specifically excluded. The resolutions of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council were to have effect only as recommendations to Government. In order to enlarge the opportunities of the non-official representatives of the people to influence the everyday administration, one or more Standing Committees consisting of the members of the Legislative Council and the Representative Assembly were to be appointed in an advisory capacity on the model of the Standing Committees of the Indian Legislature. The members were to be selected from a panel to be elected by the members of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council respectively from among themselves. The meetings of the Standing Committee were to be held under the chairmanship of a Member of Government and summoned at such times and as frequently as might be decided by the Dewan. All major questions of general policy on which the member in charge of the department concerned desired the advice of the committee were to be placed before it. The existing Budget Finance Committee consisting of officials and non-officials was to be abolished.

On the 10th October 1922 when the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly concluded, Sir Albion Banerji made the



following appeal to the members in connection with the reform of the constitution :—“..... This is not the time to discuss the merits of the scheme that His Highness has been pleased to sanction for the liberalisation of his administration on the lines generally indicated. No scheme however perfect can please everybody. All I desire to impress upon you is that so far as His Highness' Government is concerned, every shade of opinion expressed has been carefully weighed and considered and that they have reason to believe that the scheme will receive the enthusiastic support of the whole moderate opinion of Mysore. I am myself fully confident that with the political insight and sagacity which the people of Mysore possess in a marked degree they will recognise that Mysore history and Mysore traditions and above all, the absolute solidarity of interest between the Ruler and the ruled that exists in the State point to a path of progress and healthy evolution on the lines now announced and that they will appeal to one and all as the measure of advancement in constitutional progress that is indicated by our present conditions and limitations.....”

Before the Assembly dispersed to meet again in June 1923 for the second session, the Dewan announced that the Maharaja had given his approval to the appointment of a mixed committee of officials and non-officials presided over by Dr. (afterwards Sir) Brajendranath Seal, Vice-Chancellor of the University, for the elucidation of all the details connected with the constitution of the Assembly, the electorates, the length and frequency of the sessions and the procedure of the House.

## **CHAPTER XXXVIII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **The Seal Committee Report on Constitutional Reforms.**

The Committee over which Sir Brajendranath Seal presided, submitted its report to Government in March 1923 and it was published in April following, to elicit public opinion on the proposals contained in it. The report was widely discussed by public bodies and also at various conferences, and a large number of representations and suggestions were sent to Government. The report was unanimous on all important points except on the question of the representation of minorities. Careful and detailed consideration was given to this report as well as to all other views placed at the disposal of Government and the decisions arrived at were embodied in a Proclamation issued by the Maharaja on the 27th October 1923 as well as in the two Regulations, one relating to the Representative Assembly (XVIII of 1923) and the other to the Legislative Council (XIX of 1923), promulgated on the same date. These two Regulations did not pass through the Legislative Council but were issued by His Highness on his own authority, possessing as he did as between himself and his subjects undivided sovereign authority under the Mysore constitution as it stood, and it was therefore expressly provided in the Legislative Council Regulation itself that that Council had no authority to alter its own constitution nor that of the Representative Assembly. It is true that amendments to the Legislative Council Regulation of 1907 made in the years 1914, 1917 and 1919 were placed before and passed through the Legislative Council. But in doing so, it was subsequently realised that the constitutional aspect of the matter had been overlooked. Other matters taken out of the purview of the Legislative Council were—

1. All measures relating to or affecting the Ruling Family of Mysore ;
2. the relations of His Highness the Maharaja with the Paramount Power or with foreign Princes or States ; and
3. matters governed by treaties, conventions or agreements then in force or thereafter to be made by the Maharaja with the Paramount Power.

The Proclamation issued began by asserting that it was the constant desire of the Maharaja to provide for the increasing association of the people in the administration of the State, that the measures which had been introduced from time to time towards this end had met with a gratifying response from the people and from their chosen representatives, and that an announcement had already been made by the Dewan as to His Highness' resolve to take further substantial steps in the same direction. His Highness now ordained that the Representative Assembly established by his father by an executive order forty-two years ago was for the future to be placed on a statutory basis with enlarged functions. The Assembly was to have the privilege of being consulted on all proposals for the levy of new taxes and also, except in cases of urgency, on the general principles of all measures of legislation within the cognisance of the Legislative Council. The Assembly was also given the right of passing resolutions on all matters relating to public administration and on the general principles and policy underlying the annual State budget. The following however were placed outside the scope of the Assembly :—1. the Palace including the staff and household of His Highness the Maharaja. 2. the Military Forces. 3. the pensions of public servants. 4. Items of expenditure relating to or affecting :

(a) the relations of the Maharaja with the Paramount Power or with other States ;

(b) matters governed by treaties or conventions or agreements then in force or thereafter to be made by the Maharaja with the Paramount Power.

5. Interest on loans and charges on account of sinking funds guaranteed at the time of raising the loans.

6. Expenditure of which the amount is specified by or under any law.

The Assembly was to consist normally of 250 members, power being reserved to the Government to increase the number up to a maximum of 275 for the purpose of removing inequalities of representation if any and in order to provide for new interests and constituencies that might develop in the future,

The Proclamation also declared that the Legislative Council was to be enlarged and its constitution revised so as to increase the elected element and to ensure a statutory non-official majority as well as to provide for special interests and minorities. The Council was to have the power of voting on the annual State budget by major heads in respect of all items of expenditure save those specially excluded from its cognisance, with power however to Government to restore a provision wholly or partly disallowed by the Council, if they considered such restoration necessary for the carrying on of any department or for the discharge of Government's responsibility and also to authorise in cases of emergency such expenditure as might be necessary for the safety and tranquillity of the State notwithstanding the absence of provision therefor in the budget.

In order to increase and widen the electorate, representatives of the urban as well as the rural constituencies in the Legislative Council were to be returned by direct election and in the case of members to the Representative Assembly the existing property qualifications were to be reduced by one-half. The franchise was extended to all persons paying income-tax. The franchise was also extended to women possessing the qualifications prescribed for voters. In order to ensure that the Representative Assembly truly voiced the wishes and sentiments of the people, all members of the Assembly except those representing special interests and minorities were to be returned by direct election. To enable the representatives of the people to maintain close touch with and influence the everyday administration of the State, Standing Committees consisting of such number of members as might be prescribed, elected by the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council were to be formed to help the Government in an advisory capacity. The Economic Development Boards dealing with the subjects of education, agriculture and industries and commerce were to be continued in close relationship with the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council and reconstituted on new lines. The Proclamation also expressed the desire of His Highness that the constitution, powers and functions of the Municipal Councils, District and Taluk Boards and Village Panchayets were to be revised so as

to give them the largest possible measure of responsibility and autonomy in the administration of local affairs. The Government was to have power to make rules in regard to all matters of detail not provided for in the Proclamation or in the Representative Assembly or in the Legislative Council Regulations and to introduce such modifications as might be necessary or expedient in the future, but not so as to curtail in any manner the powers and privileges granted in the Proclamation. Finally, the Proclamation closed in these words: "My Government will take immediate steps to give effect to this Proclamation and to adopt such measures as may become necessary from time to time to carry out my intentions. I now invite my people to utilise the larger opportunities of public service and usefulness to the State which I am now conferring upon them and I have every confidence that they will respond to my call with the same loyalty and sense of responsibility as in the past and in a spirit of mutual toleration and goodwill. It is my earnest prayer that these measures now inaugurated may under Divine guidance promote the happiness and prosperity and ensure the progress of all classes of my subjects."

The Government in fixing the details found that the constitution of the Assembly as it existed at the time was defective in some respects. While the taluk representatives came in by direct election by the taluk voters, in the case of representatives of urban areas and the Kolar Gold Field Sanitary Board the election was secondary, the members representing them being returned not by the voters in these areas directly but by the Municipal Councils in the former case and the Sanitary Board in the latter. In the case of the members deputed by the District Boards the representation was even more remote, since these Boards included members returned by secondary election through the Municipal Councils and Taluk Boards. A mixed electorate consisting of direct and indirect constituencies caused many anomalies and failed to secure proper representation of the people. The recommendation of the Committee to have direct election for the Representative Assembly was therefore accepted by Government. The Government, however, differing in some respects from the conclusions of the Seal Committee decided that the two City Municipalities of

Bangalore and Mysore were to be given the privilege of returning four members each, while the Town Municipalities were to return only one member each and all Municipalities with a population of 5000 or more were declared Town Municipalities. It was also prescribed that seats reserved for the representation of special interests and minorities were to be filled up by persons elected by recognised Associations as far as possible, and the special interests selected for representation were—the Mysore University, Legal interests, European planting interest, Indian planting interest, Gold Mining, Trade and Commerce, and Inamdars' interests. These constituencies were given the privilege of returning one member each, except the University which was to return two. Seats were also provided for the representation of such interests as Factory and Mining Labour, industries other than Gold Mining and the like when organisations were formed to develop these interests.

In the case of minorities, the Seal Committee recognised that the problem of their representation was one of great importance and that the demand for their protection was not unreasonable. But they rejected as unsuitable the devices of exclusive communal electorates and the reservation of seats for communal candidates in plural constituencies, which they considered would likely widen and perpetuate the cleavage between communities. The majority of the Committee recommended a system of 'facultative representation' of minorities through Associations or by nomination where it became necessary, such minorities being communities numbering not less than 20,000 persons as classified in the Census tables. As regards the Mahomedan community, the majority of the Committee were of opinion that between the general electorates and the Associations, the Mahomedan community had reasonable expectations of obtaining adequate representation in the Assembly. Regarding Panchamas and Animists, the Committee remarked that their literacy was extremely low and that vigorous efforts were necessary for the political education and the increased representation of these classes. Referring to Indian Christians, the Committee stated that having regard to the total strength of this community and the percentage of literacy which was more than that among the

followers of the Hindu religion, its adequate representation was desirable.

The Government considered that the scheme proposed by the Committee for securing the adequate representation of the minorities through Associations was an extension of the scheme already in vogue and while providing for it, they thought it necessary to go farther than the Committee for the reason that certain communities which were distinct social groups might not under the new method of direct election through the general electorates succeed in securing proper representation of their interests. This could only be remedied by guaranteeing to them a certain number of seats in the Assembly fixed with reference to the percentage of their population, literacy, present representation and voting strength. The Government therefore decided that in the event of these communities not obtaining the required number of members through the general electorates, provision was to be made for the return of such number of members as might be required to make up the guaranteed number either through recognised Associations or by nomination if necessary. 15 seats were guaranteed for Mahomedans, 5 for Indian Christians and 3 for the Depressed Classes. The principle of separate communal electorates the Government rejected as inexpedient and unsuited to Mysore. The guarantee provided was only intended for securing adequate representation with the hope that in course of time the same would become unnecessary as education spread and political consciousness developed, leading to a homogeneity of interests in place of the present divergences. Ten seats were also kept in reserve for communities less than 20,000 in number who failed to secure representation through the general electorate. In the case of members returned through Associations representing minorities and registered under the Mysore Societies Regulation, the Associations, it was ruled, must have been formed for the furtherance of one or more specific interests of the community or for its general advancement. The number of members on the roll of any Association was not to be less than 100 members, except when Government for special reasons accepted a smaller number. Membership of the Assembly was restricted to non-officials, but as proposed by the Committee

the officers deputed by Government could sit in the Assembly and take part in the proceedings, without however any right to vote. Yelandur and Sringeri Jahagirs which hitherto had no place in the Assembly were now accorded representation.

It was open to any member of the Representative Assembly to propose an amendment to the general principles of any measure but not to particular clauses in the Bill. The President might thereupon at his discretion obtain the opinion of the Assembly by taking votes. In the case of Bills brought forward by non-official members with the Dewan's previous consent, the general principles as sent in by the member were to be placed before the Representative Assembly at its next session before the Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council. In urgent cases Government reserved power to pass Bills through the Legislative Council and to submit them to His Highness, in which case there would be no consultation of the Assembly. Such Bills were, however, to be of such extreme urgency as to justify the Government to pass them at a single sitting of the Legislative Council by suspending the rules of business. As regards taxation, the Committee recommended that proposals for the levy of new taxes were to be laid before the Assembly for discussion and the opinion of the Assembly ascertained by votes, any modifications which might be suggested in the course of the discussion being also put to the vote at the discretion of the President. In the case of any new taxation involving legislation, the Representative Assembly was to be consulted before legislation was introduced in the Legislative Council. In accordance with the Committee's recommendation, new taxes were defined as taxes which required for their imposition the passing of a new Regulation or the amendment of an existing one.

The practice as to the annual State budget prior to the passing of the Representative Assembly Regulation was that it was placed before the Assembly for general discussion and the representations made by the members during these discussions were taken into consideration by the Government before the budget was finally passed. The Assembly was now given the right of moving



resolutions on the budget. But in keeping with the constitution and character of the Representative Assembly as a body voicing popular opinion on the general principles underlying the matters submitted to it without undertaking any detailed examination, the resolutions were to have reference only to the general principles and policy underlying the budget and not to any particular grants or appropriations.

The Assembly hitherto did not possess the right to divide in respect of any matter placed before it, although Government had frequently taken the opinion of the Assembly on specific questions by votes. The Committee recommended that the practice of presenting addresses to the President either sectional or by the whole House might be discontinued, but that addresses by the whole House to His Highness the Maharaja might be permitted and the Government agreed with the Committee in these matters.

Before the Representative Assembly was placed on a statutory basis, the following were eligible to stand as candidates and to vote at elections: 1. Persons paying land revenue to Government of not less than Rs. 50 per annum. 2. Kadim tenants paying an annual rent of not less than Rs. 50 to the holder of an alienated village to which certain of the provisions of the Land Revenue Code had been applied. 3. Those who paid annually Mohatarfa tax or Municipal tax of not less than Rs. 10 to a Municipal Council. 4. Every person who was the owner of one or more entire Inam villages with a total beriz of Rs. 250 per annum and who ordinarily resided in the constituency. 5. Every graduate of a University who ordinarily resided in the constituency. 6. Every person who was a retired or pensioned officer, whether commissioned or non-commissioned, of the Mysore State troops. .

The Committee proposed that these qualifications should be modified so as to reduce the property qualifications of voters and candidates by 50 per cent and the Government accepted the recommendations. The Committee also recommended that all persons paying income-tax to Government should be qualified as voters and candidates and that sex disqualification should be

removed so as to render women eligible to vote at the elections to the Representative Assembly which also were accepted by Government. In cases of special interests and Associations representing minorities, the qualification of voters and candidates was to be the membership of the Association or other institution concerned, except that in the case of the Mysore University only fellows were to be eligible to stand as candidates for the Representative Assembly. In the case of general qualifications required for voters and candidates for the Representative Assembly, the Government agreed with the Committee that no special literacy qualification was to be prescribed as the language in which the proceedings of the Assembly were conducted was mainly Kanada. Government also agreed that to be a voter or a candidate, he was to be a subject of the Mysore State possessing certain residential qualifications, except in case of special interests where exemptions could be granted.

The actual composition of the Legislative Council as last constituted in 1919 was—nominated members (official and non-official) 5, elected members by District Constituencies 8, by the Representative Assembly 4, and by the Mysore University 1, total 13. The Committee recommended that exclusive of the ex-officio members, the strength of the Legislative Council should be fixed at 50, that not less than 50 per cent of this total strength was to consist of non-official members and that not more than one-third of the non-official members were to be nominated, the other non-official members being elected representatives of the various constituencies. The Committee also recommended that in addition to the strength of 50 members as fixed above, not more than two persons having special knowledge or experience of the subject matter of any particular Bill might be temporarily nominated to this Council for the purposes of such a Bill. The above recommendations were accepted by the Government with the modification that the proportion of non-official members was to be not less than 60 per cent instead of 50 per cent as proposed by the Committee so as to ensure a decided non-official majority. As regards the constituencies representing special interests, the Mysore University was to consist of the fellows of the University. The member to represent

Commerce and Trade was for the time being to be returned by the Chamber of Commerce. The member representing the Planting Interest was to be elected by a constituency consisting of owners of estates of not less than 50 acres under coffee, tea, cardamom or rubber. If the member returned by this constituency did not represent European planting interest, one of the eight seats reserved for the nomination of non-official members was to be given to the representative of the European Planters' Association in the State. Labour was to be represented by one member who pending the formation of a proper electorate was to be nominated by Government. The members deputed to this Council by the Representative Assembly were to be voted without any restriction as to the candidates representing particular districts or divisions. As regards the 8 seats reserved for nomination of non-official members, Government agreed with the Committee's proposal that these nominations were to be made with a view to secure the representation of the Depressed Classes, Child and Woman welfare, Minorities, Education and such others. Two seats on this Council were guaranteed to the Mahomedan community. But when two Mahomedans secured seats through the general electorates, there were to be no nominations. The same principle applied to the Indian Christian community except that only one seat was guaranteed to them. Similarly one seat was guaranteed to the Depressed Classes.

As regards the powers of the Legislative Council, no legislative measure of any description could be introduced into the Council without the previous sanction in writing of the Dewan and the leave of the Council duly obtained. It was also not competent to the Council to pass any measure affecting the Ruling Family of Mysore and other specified matters as might be reserved by the Maharaja from time to time including extradition of criminals, European vagrants, European British subjects, the Post Office, Telegraphs and Railways. In the case of subjects excluded from the purview of this Council, it was open to Government to frame any Regulation that might be required and any such Regulation when assented to by the Maharaja was to come into operation. In cases not excluded from the purview of this Council in which legislation was

urgently required, Government had power to frame emergent Regulations which if assented to by the Maharaja were to have the same force as a Regulation passed through the Council for a period of six months from the date of their promulgation in the official Gazette. The Legislative Council Regulation and the Representative Assembly Regulation were excluded from the purview of this Council and thus the constitution, powers and functions of the Legislative Council and of the Representative Assembly were outside the cognisance of the Legislative Council. Changes in the constitution were therefore possible only by means of Proclamations or Regulations promulgated by the Maharaja independently of the Council.

As regards the annual State budget, the power of the Legislative Council hitherto extended only to a general discussion of the budget and the Council had no power to submit or propose any resolutions on it. The grant of the power now to vote on the State budget was a measure of far-reaching importance and significance. While the resolutions adopted by the Council had effect only as recommendations, voting or refusing had under the terms of the announcement a binding effect on the Government which could only be annulled for a specified reason. Further, voting by major heads imposed an important limitation on the Government's powers of re-appropriation of sanctioned expenditure. Since the grant was to be sanctioned by the Council under major heads, re-appropriations by the Government from one major head to another was no longer permissible. It was thus made possible for the Legislative Council with its statutory non-official majority to exercise a large measure of control over the financial policy of the Government. The Government did not consider it necessary or desirable to exclude the salaries of any class of public servants from the vote of the Council, as the result would have been a considerable curtailment of the control over financial policy and administration which it was proposed to vest in the Council.

As regards the qualifications of voters in the rural constituencies, the following were deemed eligible to vote :—1. All persons paying land revenue of not less than Rs. 50 per annum to Government ;

similarly Kadim tenants paying an annual rent of not less than Rs. 50 per annum to the holders of alienated villages and those who paid annually Mohatarfa or Municipal tax of not less than Rs. 10 to a Municipal Council. 2. All persons who owned one or more entire Inam villages with a total beriz or assessment of Rs. 250 per annum and who ordinarily resided in the district. 3. All graduates of a University who ordinarily resided in the constituency. 4. All persons who were retired or pensioned officers (whether commissioned or non-commissioned) of the Mysore State troops. 5. All persons who paid income-tax to Government.

As regards urban constituencies, the qualifications of voters were to be the same as those of voters in the rural constituencies, except that in respect of property qualifications, the qualifications laid down for voters at municipal elections were to be accepted in lieu of those prescribed for voters in rural constituencies of the Legislative Council. No distinction was made in the property qualifications of voters and candidates to the Legislative Council.

Regarding Standing Committees, Government decided that there were to be, to begin with, three Standing Committees, one in connection with the Railway, Electrical and Public Works Departments, one in connection with Local Self-Government and the Departments of Medicine, Sanitation and Public Health and the third in connection with Finance and Taxation, the Government reserving discretion to appoint committees for other departments or to add other departments to the above committees. In view of the formation of a Standing Committee of Finance and Taxation, the Budget Committee that then existed was abolished. As separate Boards existed for Education, Agriculture and Industries and Commerce, no separate Standing Committees were appointed for them. In order that the Legislative Council might be in a position to know to what extent its wishes as expressed in its grant of demands had been complied with, the formation of a committee of the Legislative Council which would scrutinise the audit and appropriation reports of the Audit Department of Government and bring to the notice of the Council all deviations from its intentions was sanctioned.

In July 1919 the Economic Conference which had undergone several improvements in its working during its existence of eight years was made a permanent adjunct to the administration with a strong and compact organisation consisting of—(1) a Central Economic Development Board for organising and co-ordinating the work of all agencies, (2) three provincial Boards dealing with Education, Agriculture, and Industries and Commerce, and (3) a Board of Scientific Research and Advice. As regards work in the districts, economic development work was made an integral part of the functions of the local self-governing bodies. All the Boards were re-constituted so as to provide for the adequate representation of the Representative Assembly as well as of the agencies working in the districts and of semi-official and private bodies devoted to economic work of any importance and of special interests.

In accordance with the announcement contained in His Highness' Proclamation, the advisory Boards of Education, Agriculture and Industries and Commerce connected with the economic development work were re-constituted and continued in close relationship with the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council. The Board of Scientific Advice was abolished as a separate entity and its work was assigned to a sub-committee of the Industries and Commerce Board and such scientific experts from outside as might be co-opted by them.

The main features of the constitutional changes introduced may for the sake of convenience be thus summarised—Property qualifications of voters was reduced by one-half. A large number of urban constituencies was created. The disqualification of women on the ground of sex from exercising the franchise was removed. By these changes the total strength of the electorate increased from 28,000 to over 1,00,000. The unscientific combination of direct and indirect elections was done away with. The representation of special interests was systematised and Labour was recognised as one of the special interests to be represented both in the Representative Assembly and in the Legislative Council. Adequate provision was made for the representation of

minorities under a scheme that sought to avoid the widening and perpetuation of the cleavage between communities. Communities which formed distinct social groups and were not likely to obtain their due share of representation were afforded special protection by the guarantee of a fixed number of seats both in the Representative Assembly and in the Legislative Council. The Representative Assembly was given a definite place in the constitution and its position as a popular body placing before the Government the wants and wishes of the people and voicing public opinion in respect of legislation, taxation, finance and administrative measures generally was recognised by statute. The strength of the Legislative Council was substantially raised and it was given an increased elected element with a statutory non-official majority. By its power of voting on the State budget it secured an effective voice in determining the financial policy of the Government. The association of the representatives of the people in the everyday administration of the principal departments of Government was obtained by the formation of Standing Committees consisting of members of both Houses. The Development Boards for the promotion of the economic interests of the State already in existence were reconstituted so as to work in close relationship with the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council.

Lord Ronaldshay, now Marquis of Zetland and Secretary of State for India, it may interest the readers to know has in a book written by him and known as "The Heart of Aryavartna" expressed the following views on the constitution as visualised in in the Seal Committee Report:—"The Committee while not ignoring the present-day tendencies, based its proposals on Indian rather than Western theory and gave expression to Indian rather than to European ideals. The basic fact of such a constitution was the assumption that the head of the State was the supreme executive authority as well as the source and sanction of law. The sovereign of an Indian State was regarded as representing the people directly and primarily in his person..... and as standing in a more direct and vital relationship to them than the members of any representative body. He might seek the advice of individuals

or of corporations; he might delegate his functions to individuals or to chambers, but he remained the head of the body politic, such other limbs as might evolve or be created being but subordinate members—organs of one Will centred in the head wherein rested the permanent reservoir of law-making power. While this was the recognised position of the head of the State, the object of the introduction into the constitution of other bodies was in the main to provide machinery for perfecting the process by which effect was given in the domain of legislation and of administration to the one undivided Will of the State."



## **CHAPTER XXXIX.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Inauguration by the Maharaja of the Reformed Legislative Council and the Representative Assembly.**

On the 17th March 1924 His Highness the Maharaja inaugurated the new Legislative Council and the Representative Assembly at a joint session held at Mysore. His Highness in welcoming the members who had been elected by an enlarged electorate under a wider franchise, complimented them on their now being regarded as truer representatives of their constituencies than ever before and on their having larger opportunities of influencing the decisions of Government in accordance with popular demands. "I recall to mind on this occasion," said His Highness, "the words which I spoke nearly 21 years ago when I opened the Representative Assembly in person for the first time after I assumed the reins of Government. The hopes I then expressed of the value of the yearly gatherings of the Assembly in contributing to the well-being and contentment of my subjects have been amply fulfilled. The Legislative Council, too, which came into existence in 1907 with certain important functions bearing on legislation, finance and administration generally has fully justified expectations. Yet you will realise that the changes which I am inaugurating to-day are fundamental, providing as they do for a far closer association of the people with the administration and affording a freer outlet for their natural and legitimate aspirations than seemed possible a few years ago.

"I am aware that a section of my people are in favour of further radical changes, including a wider franchise and increased powers. While fully sympathising with their ideals, I may state that our decision was made after prolonged consultation. Each State must evolve its own constitution suited to its own needs and conditions and to the genius of its people. Without departing from the fundamental principles of development common to all forms of polity, it has been deemed necessary to maintain the

character of the Representative Assembly as essentially a body for consultation and reference as well as representation, directly voicing the needs of the people and with a constitution sufficiently flexible to expand with the expanding consciousness of the people, leaving to the Legislative Council the more formal work of legislation and other functions usually associated with such bodies.

"I have no doubt that you will use your new powers to strengthen all the beneficent activities in the country to spread education, to diffuse knowledge, to further industrial enterprise both public and private, and to foster the civic virtues and the spirit of social service..... The Standing Committees of the Legislature will, I hope, bring the popular representatives into closer association with the principal departments of Government. When the projected extension of Local Self-Government comes about and the powers of the District and Taluk Boards, Municipalities and Village Panchayets are enlarged, there will be many opportunities for men of ability to take part in public work and for the local management of local interests.

"There is a certain self-discipline which lies at the root of success, and which I feel you must observe for the serious treatment of public issues. I trust that, although party conflicts will be inevitable, your discussions will be conducted with mutual tolerance and respect and will be consistent with the decorum and the dignity of a State Legislature. A wise restraint is necessary in expressing your views. Exaggeration and violence of speech defeat their own purpose. I would urge you also to make a thorough study of the subjects before you speak on them and in all your pleadings, to place the interests of the State as a whole before those of any section or class. A third point which I would emphasise is that you must keep in close touch with the Government and the people and interpret the one to the other. In this way may we hope that the long silence of the depressed and the humble will be broken and full responsibility for their well-being shouldered by the educated and well-to-do classes.

"It is the ambition of my life to see the people of my State develop self-sustaining qualities, exhibit initiative and enterprise.

and take a front rank in all progressive movements and activities in the country. In making our plans for the future, we have got to take note of the tremendous changes of the recent past. India under the beneficent guidance of the British nation is shaping into a federation of Provinces and States. We, in Mysore, form as it were a nation within a nation. While co-operating with both the Government of India and the rest of the Indian public in measures which lead to the prosperity of the country as a whole, we in our local sphere should promote education and economic growth to the fullest extent permitted by our resources, so that our people may not fall behind other Provinces and States in the race of progress.

“That the history of Mysore in the recent past has run smoothly is a good omen for the future. We have known neither stagnation nor precipitate change. We have been advancing steadily, adapting our constitution and administrative machinery to new times, needs and aspirations. All constitutional progress relates to the enlightenment of the people and the quickening and utilising of their energies in the business of the State. Progress of this kind has been the constant aim of the Government of Mysore. The ceremony which I am performing to-day is thus a step in a continuous and well-ordered process of development which has been going on for over forty years and it is my hope that the process will continue with the same adaptability in the future.

“You will find yourselves exercising a considerable, frequently a decisive, influence upon the policy of Government. Not merely your resolutions, but all that you urge in debate will be of high importance. I would have you apprehend with mind and heart this vital fact that the interests of Government and people are identical. The happiness of the people is both the happiness and the vindication of Government. Any difference of opinion between the executive and yourselves—and such differences naturally occur in all lands and all along the road of progress—can refer only to the means, never to the end. You can count upon responsiveness and goodwill in Government, as they certainly count upon them in you.

“This day, therefore, marks the dawning of a new era in the history of Mysore. My faith in the power and willingness of my

people to render patriotic service is firmly rooted in experience and you may rely on my abiding sympathy with your aspirations. If every act of yours is guided by common sense, goodwill and useful study of facts and of experience, if your powers are used only for the promotion of the common good, you cannot fail to rise in power and influence. You will help to build up the prosperity and reputation of our State and will become custodians with me of its permanent interests.....”

At the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly in 1925 Sir Albion Banerji, the Dewan, reviewed the work done by both the Legislative Council and the Representative Assembly since their inauguration on a reformed basis by the Maharaja. Taking the Representative Assembly first, it was found that Government had consulted it in respect of 14 Bills, most important of which were the Coffee Cess Bill, the Mysore Village Panchayet Bill, the Mysore District Boards Bill, the Bill to amend the Mysore Municipal Regulation, the amendment of the Press Law, the Ancient Monuments Preservation Bill and the amendment of the Mysore Muzrai Regulation. On their own initiative Government took the opinion of the Assembly on certain matters under their consideration, and among the most important of these were the question of reciprocity between the Hindus and Mahomedans regarding the stoppage of music in front of mosques and temples and the question of prohibiting cow-slaughter. The privilege of interpellating Government was fully exercised by the Assembly and the number of questions asked by the members on matters of various kinds came to 140. In respect of resolutions also on matters of general importance, the members had shown great keenness in the exercise of their privilege. The total number of resolutions moved during the three previous sessions amounted to nearly 50. All these items of work were in addition to the discussion of over 360 subjects of a general character. Most of the matters which were dealt with by the House were of a highly useful and interesting nature and included such important matters as trade conditions in Mysore, technical education in the lower schools, promotion of temperance, encouragement of indigenous

system of medicine, extension of medical relief, improvement of sanitation, restoration of minor tanks, promotion of education among all classes of His Highness' subjects, promotion of industries, grant of relief on occasions of floods and drought, extension of Sanskrit education, re-organisation of the Civil Service, Panchama education, working of the Recruitment Rules, rural education, education in the Malnad, town and village improvements. Speaking generally, there was not a single Department of Government the work of which did not come in for review before the House.

The Assembly had two opportunities of exercising the privilege of discussing the general principles involved in the annual State budget and in moving resolutions in respect of it. In the course of the general discussions, the Dewan acknowledged that the Government had received most useful suggestions and the discussion of resolutions had given the Government an opportunity of explaining their principles and policy.

Turning to the Legislative Council, the work transacted by it was equally heavy and varied. The Council considered 21 Bills, of which 14 were passed and the others were in various stages of consideration. The number of resolutions on general matters moved in the Council was nearly 50 and the number of interpellations asked was over 160. The Council also passed the budgets for two years and in connection with them moved no less than 177 motions for reduction or omission of grants.

In closing the review, the Dewan bore whole-hearted testimony to the work done by the two Houses in these weighty words:—"It will be clear from the facts and figures given by me that the representatives of the people in both the Houses have taken the fullest advantage of the opportunities afforded to them by the reforms. The keenness of the members to obtain information and help Government with useful advice has been a pleasing and prominent feature of the working of the two Houses. On behalf of Government I can assure this House that the Government have given their most earnest attention to the suggestions of the peoples' representatives and in all possible cases have already given or will

soon be giving effect to them. I may mention in passing that the average attendance of members of both the Houses was never so high in the pre-reform days as it is now and the sessions of both the Houses are also longer. This is a clear indication of the interest, earnestness and public spirit displayed by the members in the discharge of their duties, responsibilities and privileges."

## **CHAPTER XL.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Distinguished Visitors to Mysore—Lord Chelmsford, Prince of Wales, the Earl of Reading and the Prince of Connaught.**

In the early years of the post-war period there were a number of distinguished visitors to the Mysore State. Lord Chelmsford who was Viceroy of India visited Mysore in December 1919 with Lady Chelmsford and was accorded a grand reception.

H. R. H. the Prince of Wales (now His Majesty King Edward VIII) paid a visit to the State in January 1922. Prior to His Royal Highness' visit to Mysore, the Maharaja had as Chancellor of the Hindu University at Benares met the Prince when the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him by that University. During his visit to the Mysore State between the 18th and 23rd of that month, the Prince visited Bangalore and Mysore Cities, Seringapatam and the Krishnarajasagara Irrigation Works and witnessed the Khedda operations at the Karapur camp. His Royal Highness was welcomed by all classes of people in Mysore with spontaneous demonstrations of joy and devotion.

At the banquet given on the 19th January 1922, the Maharaja, in proposing the toast of his guest, in the course of his speech said that no one who had followed the events of the Great War could help realising that while it had resulted in overthrowing the three great monarchies of Europe, its effect on the British Empire had been to strengthen the bonds between king and people and to leave the British Throne more deeply seated in the affections of every class of His Imperial Majesty's subjects. Truly, further said the Maharaja, might His Royal Highness be described as England's princely ambassador who won the hearts of the Empire's subjects wherever he went.

In response to the toast, the Prince of Wales referred among other matters, to the military services rendered by Mysore during

the German War:—"In October 1914 Your Highness' Imperial Service Lancers sailed from India for Egypt. They fought in Egypt where I had the pleasure of seeing them in 1916 and subsequently took part in a two years' desert campaign which ended in the capture of Gaza and the fall of Jerusalem. In both the latter engagements they played a brilliant part. They then joined the 15th Cavalry Brigade and were active in the advance in the Jordon valley and the final series of engagements which broke down the Turkish resistance and carried our arms into Syria. They distinguished themselves at Haifa, where they drove the enemy from strong positions on Mount Carmel capturing seven guns and three hundred prisoners. At the final action at Aleppo they were again to the fore with a fine charge against heavy odds in which they suffered severe casualties. They only returned to India in February 1920. The honours and decorations won by the corps and the frequent mention of the officers and men in Despatches bear eloquent testimony to their courage and efficiency and to the excellent spirit and tone that prevailed in the regiment.

"The Imperial Service Transport Corps proceeded to Mesopotamia in 1916 and continued on active service till the end of the war. It won the highest recommendations from the General Officer commanding in Mesopotamia. All praise is due to this gallant corps and to the officers who helped them to deserve and win their high reputation. In addition to keeping those units up to their full strength, 5000 of Your Highness' subjects enlisted in the units of the Indian army.

"When I turn to the more prosaic, but equally important, question of the ways and means for the war, I find that the assistance given by the Mysore State has been of an equally high order. At the outbreak of the war, Your Highness offered Rs. 50 lakhs towards the cost of our Expeditionary Forces. You added a further gift of Rs. 10 lakhs and later another gift of Rs. 13 lakhs. Your State subscribed Rs. 14 lakhs in the war loans. The people of Your State gave Rs. 2 lakhs to the war charities and invested Rs. 113 lakhs in the war loans.



“The contributions from Your Highness' State and subjects reached a total of nearly Rs. 2 crores. Besides this, the State was prominent in the supply of hides, timber, blankets and other material necessary for the efficiency of our arms.

“The war record of Your Highness' State is, indeed, a notable one and it is a great privilege to me to be able to offer my thanks and congratulations in person to-night to Your Highness on these achievements.”

On the occasion of his departure, on crossing the State frontier His Royal Highness sent a message to the Maharaja conveying the great pleasure he felt in making His Highness' acquaintance and his great admiration for the beauties of Mysore and the efficiency of the administration that prevailed.

The Earl of Reading, Viceroy and Governor-General of India, accompanied by H. E. the Countess of Reading paid a visit to the State from the 27th November to the 5th December 1923. At the State Banquet on the 29th November, the Maharaja welcomed the Viceroy not only as the chief representative in India of His Majesty the King-Emperor but also personally as an eminent jurist, diplomatist and statesman with a record of high achievements in the public life of Great Britain. In replying to His Highness' speech, His Excellency bore testimony to the sound traditions of administration prevailing in Mysore and the past achievements of the State and the development of its resources and the expansion of natural production.

In 1925 His Royal Highness the Prince of Connaught, grandson of Queen Victoria, paid a visit to Mysore with the Princess of Connaught and both were accorded an enthusiastic welcome in the Mysore City.

## CHAPTER XLI.

### Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.

**Retirement of Sir A. R. Banerji—Mr. Mirza Muhammad Ismail (afterwards Sir) appointed Dewan—His policy enunciated—Financial adjustments—Taxation Enquiry—Assets and liabilities of the State—Economic depression—Policy regarding public loans re-stated—Excise duty on matches and sugar.**

In February and March 1925 Sir A. R. Banerji went on short leave and Mushir-ul-Mulk Mir Humza Hussain who was a Member of the State Council officiated for him. Sir A. R. Banerji retired on the 1st May 1926 from the Mysore Service and was succeeded in his office by Amin-ul-Mulk Mr. Mirza Muhammad Ismail (afterwards Sir), Private Secretary to the Maharaja. He was only 43 years of age at this time having been born in 1883. He was a school-mate of His Highness the Maharaja and was a grandson of Ali Asker who, as we have already known, rendered considerable help to Krishnaraja Wodeyar III in his attempts to obtain the restoration of his State into his hands from the British Government. Sir Mirza Ismail joined the Mysore Service as an Assistant Superintendent of Police in 1905 and in 1910 became Assistant Secretary to the Maharaja. Thereafter he continued attached to the Maharaja's staff and successively filled the places of Huzur Secretary and Private Secretary to His Highness till he became Dewan on 1st May 1926. At the time this appointment was made, there was much diffidence in the minds of the people as to the advisability of the appointment of a comparatively young man with very limited official experience, but subsequent events have proved that no mistake was made.

Sir Mirza Ismail's period of office has been a very eventful one, coincident as it has been with the period of political reforms in British India and the Round Table Conferences in England. At the very outset of his career he declared that his main task would be to make possible for every class of the Maharaja's subjects the

life of comfort and contentment as far as possible and that for that purpose he needed the co-operation of all. The Birthday Session of the Representative Assembly commenced on the 14th June 1926 and at this session the new Dewan in a speech of some length elaborated the main lines of his future policy. ".....While we accept all the objects and plans bequeathed to us by previous administrations and intend to do our best for them in the light of the conditions of our time, let me pause," said the new Dewan, "to lay some special stress on one or two points. The economic question stands first among all our questions and it will continue to receive our constant and careful attention. To take the simplest, the most obvious and yet the most neglected of matters—the production and use of the necessities of life within the State. Home production, manufacture and the proper use of the necessities of life are the triple root of material prosperity. The first step towards the larger attainment of such prosperity is the improvement of means and methods of agricultural production. To this the Government will give all possible help. I need not emphasise, since it is patent to us all, the desirability of the development of agricultural co-operation and of technical instruction..... The Government are fully aware also of the need that exists for increasing facilities for industrial enterprise and for the expansion of trade, both inland and foreign. Much was attempted in these fields in our State, as we all know, by way of study and experiment in the past, and I am anxious that efforts should be renewed in the same direction, on more fruitful lines, if possible. Government will be ready to respond to any well-considered and practical suggestion for the encouragement of local enterprise, either in the field of large scale manufacture or commerce, or in the field of indigenous arts and crafts. We have all felt the need for the extension of avenues of employment—particularly for the middle and the poorer classes. This is undoubtedly the most pressing and the most widely felt problem to-day. But there is no royal road to its solution. Greater prosperity for which all should work will cause a natural increase of employment. The State will do what it can in this respect in the various works that are in hand or are under consideration. Such works need not necessarily be utilitarian.

They may also be beautiful, for beauty and order are as necessary to the welfare of the nation as utility. Then, looking at the sanitary conditions of our towns and villages. They can command neither comfort nor good health. Improvement in this respect must depend very largely on more earning capacity, for improvement means expenditure which affects both the Government and the people. This is another reason why special efforts should be made towards augmenting the natural production of the State. Where material increase flows through the life of a country, it carries better conditions over a wider area. I would, therefore, also urge that the development of handicrafts and village industries should be pushed on as vigorously as possible..... With economic and educational development goes also political development. Indeed, political advancement is at bottom a question of public education; and this means a process of patient study and careful preparation on the part of both the Government and the people..... In this respect, Mysore affords an unrivalled opportunity for developing a form of Government which may serve as a type for study, and perhaps adaptation, by other parts of India..... I would therefore appeal to you that you might spare all the time and thought that you possibly can to the task of promoting public work and popular organisation in your localities. We shall be eagerly looking for instances of non-official initiative and effort in reviving rural industries, in helping joint action in manufacture or trade, in building up co-operative societies and aided schools, and in making the institutions of local self-government more successful....."

After his advent as Dewan, Sir Mirza Ismail found that far too large a sum of money was being set aside annually for the liquidation of the loans taken by the State. He rightly observed that it was inexpedient to make the present generation share all the burdens, leaving to the next generation only the enjoyment of the benefits accruing from the productive works on which capital had been spent. At the time the Assembly met, the Rupee Debt of the State stood at Rs. 354.42 lakhs against which had accumulated a sum of Rs. 116 lakhs forming the Sinking Fund. The net

Rupee Debt was therefore only Rs. 238 lakhs. The time also was favourable to convert the short term loans into long term ones at rates of interest favourable to the tax-payer, as this latter kind of loans had come to be viewed with favour by the investing public. Even taking interest at 6 per cent and the Sinking Fund at 4 per cent, the yearly contribution required from the general revenues to wipe off the remaining Rupee Debt in 30 years was only Rs. 18.5 lakhs, while at the time the amount set apart to meet the charges towards both interest and Sinking Fund was no less than Rs. 42.39 lakhs. It was therefore found possible to divert over Rs. 20 lakhs out of the accumulations towards making provision for new capital works, such as the High Level Canal from the Krishnarajasagara Reservoir and for some of the nation-building activities which had not been adequately provided for.

In the latter part of 1926 Mr. N. S. Subba Rao (now Director of Public Instruction) who was a specialist in economics was placed on special duty to prepare an accurate and up-to-date statement of the facts relating to each tax or group of taxes levied in Mysore, to see how far the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Committee of the Government of India were applicable to the conditions existing in Mysore, and to make his own suggestions. The object of the Government in so doing was to follow in the wake of the Government of India and the Governments of some of the other countries of the world who had come to feel the necessity for arranging for an equitable system of taxation that could be readily expanded whenever necessary. The special officer completed his report by the Dasara of 1927 and sent the same to Government.

By the middle of 1929 the Government emerged from a condition of financial stringency to one of fair prosperity and ease and the Dewan was able to assure the Representative Assembly that he could with sufficient optimism venture to translate into permanent conventions some of the arrangements for expansion which the Government had been carrying out in a more or less hand-to-mouth way in the past three years. The total of the material assets of the State at the end of June 1926 amounted to

Rs. 11½ crores, while at the end of 1930 the same more or less reached the neighbourhood of Rs. 14½ crores. In addition to these assets, there were cash and investments without diminution from 1926 amounting to about Rs. 6 crores in 1930. Against these two categories of assets, there were liabilities which amounted to Rs. 11.16 crores in 1926 and to about Rs. 13.94 crores at the end of June 1930. The result was that the assets and liabilities account showed an increase of material assets by three crores with no reduction under cash and investments.

Early in 1930 a world-wide depression of prices due to over-production began to prevail and over-production meant unemployment for workers and loss for the capitalists and no way could be readily discovered even by the wisest men of the world for overcoming this calamity. The Government of Mysore managed, however, to maintain the State activities as before without resorting to any additional taxation, but secured a margin of saving in the payment of interest by converting some of the older loans raised at higher rates of interest in the past into those bearing lower rates. Sir Mirza believed that in these days of new processes, of rationalisation and of world-wide combines, progress was essential to existence and that it was not possible to mark time, but that we had to set our faces forward and struggle ahead unless we wished to be swept back by the tide. At the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly in 1930 Dewan Bahadur Mr. M. N. Krishna Rao (afterwards Sir), First Member of the State Council, in his capacity as acting Dewan on account of Sir Mirza Ismail's absence in England in connection with the Round Table Conference, re-stated the views of Government regarding the raising of public loans, remarking that it was neither possible nor desirable to undertake from current revenues public works which were more or less of permanent utility and which cost large sums of money. The progress of the country however demanded that such works were essential and the only means of financing them was to raise public loans. The policy of Government, according to Mr. Krishna Rao, was therefore to be to borrow the funds required for carrying out a continuous programme of capital works calculated to develop

the resources of the country and improve the economic condition of the people.

In October and December 1933 a 4 per cent loan free from income-tax repayable after twenty or thirty years at the option of the Government was issued in two instalments. The total subscriptions to the loan amounted to about Rs. 2½ crores and with this amount and the accumulations of the Sinking Fund at the usual rate of Rs. 17.78 lakhs per annum, the Government calculated that they would be able to pay off the unconverted securities maturing before 1941 amounting to Rs. 380 lakhs without resort to further public borrowing. In 1934 a windfall occurred to the Mysore revenues from the action of the Government of India in imposing an excise duty on matches and another on factory-produced sugar. The excise duty on matches was one of the measures of taxation contemplated for the purpose of balancing the budget under the new constitution to be later set up in India and these duties came to be levied in advance of the introduction of the new constitution. Mysore in common with other States agreed to recover a corresponding tax on matches manufactured in the State and to pay the proceeds into a common pool along with the proceeds of the British Indian tax for distribution between British India and the States on the basis of estimated consumption. The amount of the duty on matches manufactured in Mysore was estimated at Rs. 1½ lakhs per annum, while the share of the Mysore Government of the proceeds of the general taxation on the consumption basis was expected to amount to about Rs. 5 lakhs per annum. As regards sugar, in order not to give an amount of protection greater than was required by the industry, the Government of India imposed an excise duty Re. 1-5-0 per cwt. on factory-produced sugar from 1st April 1934. The Government of India invited the States which produced sugar in factories to impose an equal duty for their own benefit on production in their territories as otherwise sugar exported from these States would be made liable to import duty on entering British India. The Mysore Government accepted the proposal of the Government of India and agreed to levy the duty as suggested.

## **CHAPTER XLII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Visit of Lord Irwin—Reduction of the Subsidy by Rs. 10½ lakhs—Silver Jubilee of the Maharaja.**

Lord Irwin who succeeded Lord Reading as Viceroy in November 1925 visited with Lady Irwin the State from the 25th July to 1st August 1927. At the State Banquet held on the 29th July the Viceroy in replying to the toast proposed by the Maharaja, announced a reduction of Rs. 10½ lakhs in the subsidy of Rs. 35 lakhs paid by the State to the Government of India since the Rendition. In doing so, His Excellency said: "For many years we have watched and admired the maintenance of those high standards of administration; we have not forgotten the noble services you have rendered to the British Government when the need for service was the greatest, and we are not blind to what Your Highness has done to set an example of the fashion in which the government of a great State should be conducted..... Mysore has perhaps a longer tradition of progressive government than any other State in India, and the Government of India can feel assured that any relief which they may feel it in their power to give will inure to the benefit of the people of your State."

The University of Mysore took occasion to hold a special convocation and confer the honorary degree of D.Sc. on Lord Irwin.

On the 8th August 1927, Krishnaraja Wodeyar completed the 25th year of his rule. Ever since his assumption of power, His Highness had striven hard to promote the welfare of his subjects and to keep his State in the forefront, so that it became common to readily cite the name of Mysore whenever any reference was made to well-governed Native States. Long before the Jubilee arrived, considerable eagerness was manifested by the people of Mysore for the celebration of the day in a manner worthy of the high reputation of their Sovereign and in keeping with the benefits they had received from him.



On the 11th April 1927, a large and enthusiastic public meeting was held in the Lal Bagh at Bangalore to concert measures for the celebration of the Jubilee at which representatives from all the districts were present. The gathering consisted of both ladies and gentlemen and Sir Mirza Ismail the Dewan presided. The chairman in his speech began by saying that at that meeting there were no officials or non-officials, no critics or champions of policy and that the strongest and subtlest unifying power in the State was the personality of the Maharaja. "Those of us who have had the honour of knowing something of the personal life of His Highness," continued Sir Mirza, "know that he is essentially a man of simple taste, though not in the bald sense sometimes associated with that term. There is a simplicity without taste. But His Highness' simplicity includes the love of beauty and includes a very simple and strong desire that his people shall share in the beauty of culture and of nature that he loves. In fulfilment of this desire, he has bounteously inspired and helped every movement for beautifying the environment of his people. His Highness has penetrated deeply into the actual life of his people, not officially only, but often without announcement or recognition; and what he has not been able to do fully in the body, he has assiduously tried to do with the imagination, by keeping in close and constant touch with all that concerns the welfare of the State. His impartiality in the consideration of opposing details in affairs, his quick and sound judgment, the dignity and restraint which goes with him as a never-failing atmosphere are realised by all who know anything of his life and work. To us in Mysore, he stands as the centre of our social organisation and in personality. To India as a whole and to the large body of persons beyond India who are looking to India for fresh light and direction in the present time of world-crisis, he stands as the type of the true succession of Indian rulership. In the modern ruler a new tolerance and neutrality is called for and the broad-mindedness of His Highness has passed into a proverb. A religious devotee himself, he makes no distinctions on religious grounds. He follows his own faith and respects the sincere faith of others. But it is probably in the department of public affairs, in legislation and administration that His Highness has taken his

place as one of the most sagacious statesmen of our time. He has recognised, on the one hand, the increasing political importance of the individual citizen, and, on the other hand, he has felt the necessity and advantage of viewing Mysore as a vital member of the great entity called India, with whose destinies those of Mysore are interwoven. His Highness is ever alert to the indications of the growing spirit of humanity both within Mysore and India as a whole and ever eager to adapt the machinery of co-operative life to the behests of evolution.....”

On 13th June 1927 when the Birthday Session of the Representative Assembly began, the Dewan announced to the members that the proposal to celebrate the Silver Jubilee had evoked unparalleled enthusiasm throughout the State, that people everywhere were arranging to celebrate the Jubilee in a fitting manner and that a permanent memorial was also intended to be erected to serve to remind the future generations of the era of well-being and progress which the State had enjoyed under a benign and far-sighted ruler.

The 8th August 1927 was, as has been already stated, the day of the Silver Jubilee of His Highness' reign and it began at Mysore with a salute of 25 guns. The weather was delightfully mild and pleasant. Thousands of His Highness' loyal subjects had assembled to pay their homage to the Sovereign and all the proceedings were marked by much enthusiasm and devotion. At 9 a.m. His Highness proceeded from the Palace to the marriage pavilion in the Jagan Mohan Palace and took his seat in a chair of State. The pandits and Vaidiks were ranged in a semi-circle in front of His Highness. The Vaidiks chanted verses from the three Vedas invoking the blessings of the Almighty on their Sovereign. Sacramental rice was then showered on His Highness by the pandits. His Highness then stood up and made a speech in Sanskrit expressing his gratitude for their benedictions, coming as they did from such a scholarly body of representatives of ancient learning as he saw before him.

At 10 a.m. His Highness entered the Durbar Hall of the Palace and took his seat in a chair of State. The Yuvaraja

accompanied His Highness and took his seat on the dais to the left of his brother. There was a large gathering of invited persons from all parts of the State. The military forces had assembled in the courtyard and saluted. Obeisances were offered to the Maharaja which were duly acknowledged. A sanskrit Pandit then recited a number of Sanskrit verses in appreciation of the many virtues of His Highness and of the benefits of his rule. Sir K. P. Puttanna Chetty then, with the permission of His Highness, made a speech in Kanada in which he referred to the numerous benefits which the people of Mysore had obtained during the 25 years of His Highness' reign and also spoke of the great qualities of head and heart which His Highness possessed. Urdu and Sanskrit versions of the speech were also read.

In reply His Highness made the following speech :—

“ My Beloved People,

“ It gives me the deepest pleasure to receive this address from you, and I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for the sentiments of loyalty and devotion to my throne and person that you have so eloquently expressed.

“ I thank God who has blessed Mysore so abundantly in material ways that He has blessed her also with a sincere, modest, liberal-minded and industrious people; and I thank my people themselves, my Government and my officers that by their hearty co-operation for the good of Mysore they have earned for it the name of the Model State and the signal proof of appreciation which we have just received from the Supreme Government.

“ I pray that we may all be assisted in the years to come to work together in the spirit of brotherhood for the same good end, so that with an efficient administration, increased facilities for agriculture, industry and commerce and equal opportunities for all, we may devote our common energies to a level in keeping with the foremost countries of the world.

“It is my earnest desire that this spirit of brotherhood should be extended to the continuous improvement of the conditions of those who are less fortunate than ourselves, remembering that all the communities alike are members of my people and children of our country.

“I pray that a similar spirit may extend itself to the dumb creation, and that we may see animals, and especially those we hold sacred, treated with ever-increasing consideration for the feelings which they cannot express.

“And I appeal specially to the rising generation to hold before themselves always the ideal of brotherhood and good citizenship, so that when they come to fill our places, they may continue in all good ways to advance and increase the welfare of our beloved Motherland.

“Finally, I send my loving greetings to each one of my dear people, with a heart full of solicitude for their happiness. With increasing effort I shall, while life lasts, endeavour to promote their welfare and prosperity, and I pray that God may give me light and strength to achieve this, the supreme object of my life and rule.”

His Highness also issued the following message to his subjects :—

THE PALACE,  
MYSORE,  
8th August 1927.

On this day, when I complete the twenty-fifth year of my reign, I send my loving greetings to each one of my dear people, with a heart full of solicitude for their happiness. With unceasing effort I shall, while life lasts, endeavour to promote their welfare and prosperity, and I pray that God may give me light and strength to achieve this, the supreme object of my life and rule.

(Sd.) Krishnaraja Wodeyar.

Souvenirs containing a photo of His Highness and the message were distributed in the Durbar.

At 5 p.m. His Highness accompanied by the Yuvaraja drove in state to the Silver Jubilee Clock Tower. A shamiana had been put up and tastefully decorated. Her Highness the Maharani late Regent and all the Palace ladies were present in motor cars. Their Highnesses took their seats on a raised dais and thousands were able to pay their homage to the Maharaja. A pandit read some verses composed by Rajakavibhushana Mr. H. Lingaraj Urs. The Rajkumar C. Desaraj Urs, nephew of the Maharaja, then requested His Highness to switch the clock into action. His Highness accordingly complied and the bell of the clock struck 25 times. Its sonorous peal was heard above the acclamations of the multitude. This clock tower, it may be stated, was intended by all the employees of the Palace to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the reign of His Highness the Maharaja and an inscription to that effect was recorded on the tower. His Highness then drove in state to a public fete which had been organised in the grounds near the Government House and after witnessing the same, returned to his residence. The Fort Palace was illuminated in the evening.

The next day in the morning in honour of the Silver Jubilee, the Boys and Girls of Mysore organised a meeting in the Jagan Mohan Palace Pavilion, at which His Highness the Yuvaraja presided. Prince Jayachamaraja Wodeyar, the eldest son of the Yuvaraja, was also present at this meeting. A message of congratulation and loyalty was sent by the Boys and Girls to the Maharaja. The message was carried to the Palace by a relay of Boy Scouts and the following reply was received from His Highness: "I am deeply touched by the message of the Boys and Girls of Mysore. I cannot wish them anything better in reply than that they be all their lives good Mysoreans and good Scouts and Guides."

In the evening of the same day, the Pinjrapole Society organised a tree-planting ceremony to commemorate the Silver

Jubilee at the Pinjrapole grounds. His Highness the Yuvaraja arrived on the grounds at 5 p.m. and was received by Sir Charles Todhunter, Private Secretary to the Maharaja, and other members of the Committee. In response to the request of Sir Charles Todhunter, His Highness planted the first tree in the Mysore Jubilee tope which was one of the many that were planted all over the State that day. The Yuvaraja, in a short concluding speech, expressed a wish that the trees planted that day might flourish exceedingly, and that the Pinjrapole Society and the animals entrusted to its care might flourish with them and that as the trees spread out their branches, so the Society might spread its interests, bringing more and more of the suffering dumb creation under its sheltering care.

The citizens of Bangalore expressed a strong wish that the Maharaja should visit their city and that there should be some demonstration of the joy that the celebration of the Jubilee had given them. In compliance with these wishes, a procession took place on the 7th September 1927 in the Bangalore City. On the evening of that day, His Highness drove in a carriage and four with escort from the Bangalore Palace to the Cubbon Park, accompanied by the Yuvaraja, the Dewan and Sirdar Lakshmikantharaj Urs. Their Highnesses were received by the President, the Commissioner and members of the Municipality. An address was then read by the President and it was presented to the Maharaja in a beautiful casket. Among other matters, the address stated that they were highly grateful for the opportunity given to the citizens of Bangalore to demonstrate their deep love and reverence to their Sovereign, that that day had been looked forward to with unbounded pleasure by all classes and communities in the city, and that the occasion would stand as a memorable landmark in the history of the corporation. His Highness made a suitable reply and said that he would watch with pleasure and sympathy the various improvements which they were carrying out to enhance its beauty and healthfulness and at the same time, impressed upon them the extreme importance of paying a due share of their attention to the less favoured parts of the city and of doing all that

lay in their power to brighten the lives and surroundings of the poorer classes, so that they too might enjoy the benefits of a healthy and enlightened life. After a short interval, Their Highnesses mounted an elephant which was kept ready and the procession started from the Seshadri Memorial Hall. On the procession reaching the City market-square, His Highness alighted at a specially erected pavilion and the members of the Municipality who were introduced to His Highness paid their respects. His Highness remounted the elephant and the procession continued. Fireworks were displayed in the grounds of the District Offices as the procession passed. The procession came to a close at the new Krishnarajendra Circle.

It took some time to decide the form of the memorial and in 1929 an announcement was made that it would take the form of a Technological Institute at Bangalore. The Maharaja laid the foundation of this institute near the Krishnarajendra Circle, Bangalore, on 8th March 1933. Before performing the ceremony, His Highness made a speech in which he referred to the multitude of events startling in their own way occurring in the first quarter of the 20th century which coincided with his own reign. "My greatest hope for the future of this Technological Institute is," said His Highness, "that it will form an abiding link between the purely literary education to which we have so largely devoted ourselves in the past and the practical adaptation of new inventions and discoveries which must, whether we like it or not, form so great a part of our life in the future."

A third part of the subscriptions raised was made available to the district, taluk and other committees who established memorials suitable to their own local needs. These local memorials have been generally in the form of public utilities such as Orphanages, Hospitals, Maternity Wards, Poor Houses, Public Halls, Recreation Grounds, Reading Rooms, Libraries and other like institutions.

## **CHAPTER XLIII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV's views on some religious, social and other topics.**

The decorous reserve and the studied stiffness which the Indian Princes of the olden days were accustomed to assume whenever they appeared in public no longer characterise the Princes who have received training under the modern methods of educational discipline. They have become frank in their manners and sociable in an enlarged degree when they are in company. They are freely to be seen gracing public gatherings and presiding over functions of various kinds, no longer deterred by any old-world sentiments of rank or dignity from giving expression to their views on public or other questions whenever circumstances call for them. Krishnaraja Wodeyar has freely availed himself of such opportunities, and the workings of his mind stand revealed to all those who wish to know them. These views of His Highness go to reveal that the mind behind them is a cultured mind not bound by any narrow limits, but bold and forward in its movements. A few typical views of His Highness' expressed on various occasions will illustrate the truth of these remarks. These views are valuable not only for the immediate purpose they served but also for serving as beacon lights for the guidance of the people of the country and a model for his successors to follow.

In December 1902 on the occasion of a visit to Poona when the Gayana Samaj there presented him an address, His Highness in expressing his pleasure for the welcome offered to him said that he appreciated the compliment that in Mysore under the auspices of his revered parents this fine art had made much advancement. As a lover of music of both the East and the West, it pleased him, His Highness said, to renew his acquaintance with the Gayana Samaj and to assure the Samaj of his hearty interest in it and in its aims.



On the 22nd December 1903 when the Maharaja visited Madras to open the Industrial Exhibition organised there by the citizens of Madras, His Highness in reply to a welcome address said that his earnest desire was to uphold the great traditions of his State and to do what in him lay to maintain for Mysore that position in the Indian polity which had been assigned to it in the address. His Highness congratulated himself that thus early in his career he had been afforded an opportunity of meeting so many of the most enlightened citizens not only of Madras but of all parts of India and of taking his part with the people of India in a movement which had for its object the development of the industries of India, their great Motherland.

In January 1904 in addressing a deputation of Mysoreans resident in Madras, His Highness said that though for the administration and development of Mysore the best heads and hearts that the soil could produce were needed, he would be the last to discourage young men from seeking an honourable livelihood abroad. For it was certain that though absent for a while, they were not unmindful that Mysore was their home and would ever be eager when opportunity offered to devote the knowledge and breadth of mind acquired by residence amongst progressive communities to the service of their Motherland.

In reply to an address from the Lingayat Community presented on the 8th June 1906 on the occasion of the elevation of Mr. K. P. Puttanna Chetty (now Sir) as a Member of Council, the Maharaja gave expression to the view that the doors of education and of the Public Service lay open to all alike and in the appointment which had then been made they could find ample assurance that those who proved their fitness would not lack recognition from him or from his Government.

In reply to an address presented on the 28th August 1906 on the occasion of the opening of the Wesleyan Mission Hospital at Mysore, His Highness said that the Wesleyan Mission were old friends of all in Mysore and were the pioneers of modern education in the city and that their good work was well-known to every one.

This their latest enterprise was one that must appeal to the hearts of all. The provision of medical relief for the sick and suffering women and children was a question apart from all questions of caste, creed or nationality and there was no object to which those that were in a position to help could more worthily contribute.

In January 1907 the Maharaja visited Calcutta and in reply to an address presented by the members of the Association for the advancement of scientific and industrial education, His Highness said that there had been an awakening all over the Indian continent regarding the urgent need that existed for recovering the ground which had been lost in the matter of industries and commerce and that all those who took a true interest in the well-being of the country could not but rejoice at the signs of revival that were noticeable on all sides.

In reply to the address presented by the citizens of Mysore on 11th March 1907 congratulating the Maharaja on the title of G. C. S. I. conferred on him by His Majesty the King-Emperor, His Highness said :—" You allude in your address to the honour as being a fit recognition of my four years' personal rule. Though I appreciate the depth of feeling which has prompted you to express this opinion, yet I must candidly confess that I cannot altogether endorse it. I feel that I have only just begun my work of administration, that there is a very great deal to be done and that very little has yet been achieved. My responsibility is a heavy one, but I fully realise it. As it has pleased Providence to call upon me to discharge it, I can only submit to the Divine Will. It shall ever be my aim and ambition in life to do all that lies in me to promote the progress and prosperity of my beautiful State and the happiness of my beloved people. I can assure you that I shall not spare myself in my endeavours to accomplish this. Neither perseverance nor effort will, I trust, be ever found wanting in fulfilling that aim."

In reply to the address of the Vokkaligara Sangha consisting of people mainly following the occupation of agriculture, His Highness said on the 17th October 1907 that any improvement that







*H. H. Narasimharaja Wodeyar, G.C.I.E.*



tended to the welfare of that community must command his warm support.

On the occasion of the Birthday Banquet to his European friends on the 27th June 1910, His Highness said:—"It is a renewed pleasure to me as the Mysore Birthday Week comes round year after year to welcome my English friends to the capital of my State, and this year that pleasure is intensified by the thought that the large and distinguished company who have been my guests on this occasion have come here not only to join in the celebrations of my birthday but to unite with my people in the universal rejoicing occasioned by the marriage of my brother. Mr. Fraser has alluded in feeling and eloquent terms to the strong bond of affection which unites my brother and myself, and I can assure you that it is a source of great pride and gratification to me to realise what a high place my brother has secured in your regard. My mother too will, I know, appreciate very deeply the congratulations on the happy event in our family which Mr. Fraser has so gracefully offered her..... I also appreciate very much the complimentary words in which Mr. Fraser has alluded to the military rank recently conferred on me by His Majesty the King-Emperor. Not only do I feel proud to belong to the British army as my father did before me, but I regard it as an honour to be associated with such a fine regiment as the 26th Cavalry..... It is difficult for me to give an adequate response to the warm and friendly words in which Mr. Fraser has referred to his many years of close association with my family and his personal relations with myself, and I can only acknowledge the deep debt of gratitude which I owe him for the care and devotion which he displayed during my boyhood and early manhood and to which I mainly owe any small measure of success that I may have attained in my work of administration."

In laying the corner-stone of the Y. M. C. A. building at Bangalore on the 14th April 1912, His Highness welcomed the extension of the Association's work to the State as he felt that its influence religious, moral and educational would be all for the good, not only of its Christian members but also of the young men belonging to other religions who would pass their leisure hours

within its walls. The people of India, His Highness further said, owed a deep obligation to the Missionary Schools and Colleges which had done so much not only to spread education but to impart a high moral character to the vast number of Indian pupils who had come under their influence..... There could be no more valuable training for a young man than that which made him fear his God and do good to his neighbour, or in other words, which taught him to believe in his own religion, to be a good citizen and to render social service.

On the occasion of the opening on the 11th April 1913 of the Vani Vilas Ursu Girls' School which is said to have come into existence mainly through the instrumentality of His Highness' cousin the late H. Nanjundaraj Urs, the Maharaja said that it was a trite saying that no community could expect to advance when half of its members were illiterate and ignorant..... The education of the future mothers of children could not with impunity be neglected and it was therefore none too soon that they had awakened to the true needs of such an education.

In reply to an address presented to him at Davangere on the 19th December 1914 by the people of the place on the occasion of his provincial tour, His Highness referring to the German War which had begun a few months before, said that though it might be admitted that the war had affected the business of the producers and exporters of cotton and oil seeds, still it was to be understood that distress of that kind was inevitable and could not easily be remedied by administrative measures. Whatever might be the effect of the war on their trade, they were to remember that ties of gratitude and friendship bound them to the British Government and that they were to submit cheerfully to some sacrifice in support of the righteous cause for which Great Britain and her allies had taken up arms.

On the occasion of the opening on the 6th July 1915 of the Seringapatam Memorial Mantap built on the site where Krishnaraja Wodeyar III was born, His Highness said—"There are few places more closely associated with Mysore history than the island and fortress of Seringapatam, and it is a source of peculiar satisfaction to



me that this site should be chosen for a memorial to my illustrious grandfather whose name will long be remembered not only in connection with the restoration of our ancient dynasty after the fall of Seringapatam but with its second restoration after 50 years of British administration. It may be truly said that we owe that signal act of generosity and justice—the Rendition of Mysore in 1881—to the recognition by the British Government of the high personal character of my grandfather, of his patience and fortitude, and of his unswerving loyalty to the British Government during many years of adversity..... I grieve to see as I look around me the ruin and decay which have fallen on this once flourishing city and no one can sympathise more deeply than I do with the earnest wish of its inhabitants to see something of its former prosperity restored.....

“As I stand on this historical battle-ground, my thoughts naturally go back to the terrible war now raging in Europe in which our Indian soldiers are fighting side by side with their British comrades in defence of a righteous cause. May we all unite in a constant prayer for victory to the British arms and for an honourable and lasting peace.”

On the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of the Daly Memorial Hall for the location of the Mythic Society on 31st August 1916, His Highness referred to the two objects of the memorial building, namely, to provide a local habitation to the Mythic Society and to honour the memory of Col. Sir Hugh Daly who was till recently the British Resident in the State. Sir Hugh Daly's active interest in the progress of the State and his geniality won for him a warm place in the hearts of the people of Mysore. His Highness also said that if the objects of the Mythic Society came to be better understood—to conduct researches connected with history and archæology—he hoped that the people of Mysore, not the learned few only, would feel pride and interest in its work. Much of the credit for the building was due to Father Tabard who was its founder and mainstay..... The building would serve to recall to the memory of the future generations the name of a high-minded British officer who was a sincere friend of

Mysore and its people. It would bring together Europeans and Indians to work on a common platform for an object which appealed to the higher intellectual tastes of civilised life.

On the occasion of the opening of the Science Congress presided over by Sir Alfred Bourne, Director of Tata Institute, on 10th January 1917 His Highness said :—"The last half of a century has witnessed a marvellous progress in the application of science to the needs of man. Inventions and improvements have been pouring in with bewildering rapidity. Transport by land, water and air has been quickened and cheapened. The uses of science for alleviating sickness have been multiplied. That fever can be defeated by science can be demonstrated by what has been done on the Panama Canal.

"Meeting as we do here in an atmosphere of peace and sunshine, our thoughts cannot but turn to the Great War and to the terrible scenes of death and destruction which are being enacted in Central Europe. One cannot help feeling it a tragedy that science to which the world so largely owes its progress and civilisation is being, as it were, debased in this war and used for the purpose of destroying human life..... May we not look forward to a time when science will be hailed not only as a beacon light of civilisation but as the world's peace-maker.....

"Scientific education in India is in its infancy and her industrial output per head of population is as yet a negligible quantity. India at the rate her population is growing cannot long maintain herself by merely growing raw produce. Science has soon to come to the aid of her agriculture and industry to maintain her population."

In reply to the address of the Chamarajanagar Municipal Council on 8th December 1917, His Highness appealed to the people to develop the spirit of co-operation with Government, for Government by its unaided efforts could achieve very little and that any real progress must depend on the initiative and the public spirit of the people themselves, that they must not

look to Government or its officers to do everything for them, but must learn to be self-reliant and to develop the resources of the country by their own independent efforts also.

In reply to an address by a Non-Brahmin deputation at Karikal Thotti on 24th June 1918 His Highness said :—" It has always been my earnest desire to see all classes of my subjects represented in just proportion in the Public Service. The preponderance of the Brahmins in the Government Service is due to inevitable causes and I feel convinced that time and the spread of education and enlightenment will gradually remove the inequality of which you rightly complain. At the same time, I must tell you that it is far from my desire that any community should in any way be penalised on account of its caste, simply because it has worked hard and utilised fully the opportunities for advancement which are open to all my subjects. For, I believe I have in the Brahmin community subjects as loyal as any among my people. Nor can I for a moment forget the eminent services rendered in the past and are still being rendered to my House and State by the representatives of that gifted community. My ambition is to pursue a righteous policy as between various castes and communities in the State, neither unduly favouring nor suppressing any community but trying to uplift them all for the permanent good of the State.

" My Government is using its utmost endeavours to encourage backward classes in the State and you may rest assured that this policy of affording special facilities and encouragement to all communities who are lagging behind in the race of progress will be readily pursued in future even more than it has been in the past."

In 1915 when the Benares Hindu University was founded, the Maharaja was elected as the first Chancellor of the University. On the first convocation of the University on 17th January 1919, His Highness gave utterance to these sentiments :—" Of the many important measures which distinguish the viceroyalty of Lord Hardinge, not the least in its beneficent and far-reaching effects is the Benares Hindu University Act of 1915 by which the Govern-

ment of India, under his inspiration and guidance, set the seal of its approval upon one of the greatest popular educational movements of the times..... After many vicissitudes and many years of toil, we are assembled here to-day to gather the first fruits of our labours, and this important event in the history of our University comes happily at a time when the most terrible war that the world has ever seen is at an end. We rejoice on such an occasion to congratulate His Majesty the King-Emperor and the British nation on the decisive victory of the British Empire and its Allies. The war has demonstrated the greatness of the British character, no less than the deep-rooted loyalty of the Princes and people of India to the British connection. May we hope that the outlook of the human race is changing and a new era is dawning on a world saddened by the tears and sacrifices of many nations—an era of the reign of right as opposed to might, of principle as opposed to expediency, and of peace as opposed to aggression..... Centres of culture like this University have a noble purpose to serve and can contribute materially to the enlargement of human ideals and to the promotion of interracial and international fellowship. But they can achieve this end only if their outlook is as wide as humanity itself.....

“Especially should we Hindus with our glorious past beware of the temptation to confuse patriotism with blind adoration of ancient days, coupled with a repugnance for everything modern and foreign. No nation is impoverished by commerce with other nations; no civilisation can suffer by intercourse with other nations and by an intelligent appreciation of the principles, ideas and practices that have proved to be beneficial to other peoples and countries..... I understand that in America where the problem of fusing a variety of peoples into a common nationality is as urgent, though perhaps not so difficult, as in India, education in citizenship, patriotism and loyalty to the constitution have been included amongst the objectives of the school system. The cultivation of the ethics of citizenship and patriotism is specially needed in India where clan, tribe and caste have had a deplorable tendency to produce communal exclusiveness and differences.

**“The country needs something more than the accomplished gentleman. It needs men of enthusiasm even more than refined intellectuals pursuing the easy path of worldly wisdom, worldly compromise and worldly success. It needs men of stout hearts and strong hands who will not allow their conscience to be drugged by sophistry of any kind, or their nerve to be paralysed by the fear of unpopularity, but will oppose wrong wherever found and fight unflinchingly the battle of social justice and emancipation on behalf of the weak and down-trodden.”**

At the opening on the 14th April 1922 of the mosque at the Body Guard Lines at Mysore constructed at the Maharaja's cost and presented to the Mahomedan community, His Highness made a speech in Urdu and said that it was one of the striking features of Islam that it laid special emphasis on the inestimable value of prayer, and that it would give him great pleasure if the Mussalman community made full use of the mosque and if they constantly resorted to it for prayer and meditation..... The Almighty God could confer no greater blessing on a Ruler, further said the Maharaja, than the happiness and well-being of his people be they Hindus, Mahomedans or Christians in whose welfare, spiritual as well as material, he is deeply interested.

On the occasion of the celebration on the 3rd September 1923 of the Janma Ashtami of Sri Krishna by the members of the Sanatana Dharma Pratap Sabha of Srinagar, His Highness who happened to be in Kashmir at the time gave utterance to these elevated sentiments:—“On this auspicious day our thoughts naturally turn to the holy nativity and life of Sri Krishna and our minds piously dwell on the meditations of His Divine virtue. We may not attain to the same level of perfection as He; it would indeed be presumptuous on our part even to dream of achieving it, but we may at least strive to follow his footsteps, to understand the words of wisdom contained in the songs of that Celestial Bard, to emulate his example and to gain that personal holiness without which no man can come up to true knowledge of God..... The sacred Hindu religion is the priceless heirage handed down to us by our forefathers and it is, believe me, God's best gift to us.”

On the occasion of the All-India Jain Conference held at Sravanabelagola on the 14th March 1925, His Highness said :—  
 “In welcoming this all-India gathering of Jains to the land of Mysore, I cannot forget that this land is to them a land of pilgrimage, consecrated by some of the holiest traditions and the tenderest memories of their faith. This picturesque rock on an elevated table-land was, as a thousand year old tradition has it, the scene where the venerable Bhagavan Srutakevali Bhadrabahu leading the first migration of the Jains to the Southern Peninsula broke his journey through the jungles and took up his abode, and tradition still points to the cave in which years after he passed away in Sallekhana leaving his foot-prints on the rock..... This is also the sacred spot to the Muniswara Gomata..... For a thousand years has the Muniswara's colossal statue carved, it may be, out of a huge boulder on the rock and visible for miles around ruled over this scene, unsurpassed in massive grandeur and sublimity of spiritual power by anything that the Egyptian or Assyrian monuments can show..... What is unique in Jainism among Indian religious and philosophical systems is that it has sought an emancipation in an upward movement of the spirit towards the realm of infinitude and transcendence and that it has made power, will, character, in one word charitra, an integral element of perfection, side by side with knowledge and faith.

“The conference is, I understand, a purely religious and social one. It will have nothing to do with politics. I commend the wisdom of the promoters on this limitation. Let me not, however, be misunderstood in this commendation as putting politics outside the pale of your consideration as something to be dreaded or ignored. On the contrary, I feel that every intelligent person should take an earnest and intelligent interest in the political questions of the day and contribute his and I ought, perhaps, to add her share towards the solution of the problems that must inevitably arise from the necessity of adapting the organisation of humanity to the needs of its expanding consciousness.....

“In the sphere of politics whether concerning India or any of the areas of which it is composed, you are Indians first and Jains

afterwards. As Jains you command the sympathetic interest of everyone looking at the problems of your community from your particular standpoint. As Indians, your political point of view as well as of every other religious community in India should, in my opinion, be that of India as a whole.

“So long as the thousand and one different communities into which our country is split up bear this doctrine in mind and act towards one another in a true spirit of brotherhood, we need have no misgivings as to her future. It is when the purely religious and social questions invade politics that vast difficulties arise, difficulties which must inevitably retard the progress of the country. Within the religious and social sphere of each community there can be no improvement which does not exercise a beneficial effect on the general progress of the country. We must, therefore, wish every community all possible success in its endeavour to advance itself religiously, socially and educationally. At the same time, we must realise that if there is to be real progress in the country at large, it must be all along the line; it must embrace every community. And I personally consider it the sacred duty of the more advanced communities not only to have earnest regard for their own progress, but also to extend a helping hand to less fortunate communities which from some remediable cause are lagging behind in the path of human evolution.”

On the occasion of the celebration of the Jubilee of the Maharaja's Sanskrit College at Mysore on the 20th October 1926, His Highness said:—“Started in 1876 at the express desire of my grandfather, its importance cannot be judged by numerical standards alone. For, this institution stands for ancient culture. It is the centre of Sanskrit learning from which a knowledge of the rich store of our ancient heritage has radiated to all parts of the State and even outside. It has, in fact, preserved for the use of future generations the essence of those traditions and characteristics on which the structure of our Indian civilisation was built in the past. This college is thus rendering a national service of no mean order to the country. That this is not an unduly large claim will be clear if we remember that in any reconstruction of our social,

political and religious polity, we could not and should not cut ourselves off from our historic past and that our future must have its roots in the past.

“ Besides, Sanskrit learning embodies a culture, a discipline, a type of humanism which few other learning, old or new, dead or living, can present to our age.”

The mosque known as the Jumma Musjid Mosque at Mysore was reconstructed at a cost of Rs. 38,000 by the State engineers at the command of the Maharaja and was handed over on the 6th April 1927 to the Mahomedan community for use. When the seat of Government was transferred from Seringapatam after the events of 1799, there was no Jumma Musjid in the city and the Mahomedan inhabitants who had migrated from Seringapatam prayed that one might be constructed. This prayer for a mosque was not only acceded to by Krishnaraja Wodeyar III, grandfather of the present Maharaja, but he also attached a suitable cash grant for the maintenance of the institution and for the relief of poor travellers at a Langarkhana. The present Maharaja in declaring the new mosque open wished that the building might endure for many generations as a source of inspiration, as a place of goodwill, as a centre of all that is best and noblest in the Mahomedan religion.

On the occasion of laying the foundation-stone of Saint Philomena's Church at Mysore on 28th October 1933, His Highness said:—“ I believe with deep conviction that religion is fundamental to the richest and strongest life of the nation. There are diverse religions in this land of ours and frequently there exists a most irreligious hostility between them. But we have been gradually coming to understand that the unity is much deeper than the differences, that while in creed and custom we are far enough apart, in worship and in aspiration we are one. This being so, the creed and custom of each religion among us is surely worthy of reverent study by the followers of every other.

“ You have reminded me that your present church was built by my grandfather of revered memory ninety years ago..... To



you, My Lord Bishop, and to your clergy, the State and City of Mysore are indebted for countless deeds of charity and goodwill and for endless effort for the enlightenment and uplift of the people."

## CHAPTER XLIV.

### Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.

#### The Maharaja as a Pilgrim.—From Almora to Manasarowar.

The Maharaja in June 1931 resolved to make a pilgrimage to Lake Manasarowar and to Mount Kilas in the Himalayas. In the previous year His Highness had visited Badari Narayan. The royal party left Mysore on the 18th June 1931 and reached Almora on the 24th of the same month and remained there till the morning of the 27th. Six retired Indian sepoys who had seen war service—three of them Ghurkas and the other three Kumaonese—were engaged to guard the party right through. The party also carried its own arms and ammunition. The party that accompanied His Highness consisted of Messrs. 1. N. Rangachar,\* Surgeon. 2. Sadeg Z. Shah, Assistant Secretary to His Highness. 3. Colonel A. V. Subramanyaraj Urs, Hon. A. D. C. 4. Major S. Gopala Rao. 5. Captain Nabi Khan. 6. Lieut. Nanjaraj Bahadur of the Mysore Lancers. 7. A. Venkatasubbayya, Manager, Private Secretary's Office. 8. C. V. Subramanyaraj Urs, Mokthesar, Khas Samukha. 9. K. Venkatarangayya, Clerk, Private Secretary's Office. 10. C. Krishnappa, Sub-Assistant Surgeon. Mr. Pratap Singh, Tahsildar of Almora, who was on duty with His Highness on the occasion of the trip to Badari Narayan was deputed by the United Provinces Government to accompany the party to arrange for transport and other requisites.

The first start towards the destination was made on the morning of the 27th June at 5-30 when the ponies and guides were ready, and the first stage a distance of 8 miles was reached at 8 a.m., taking up residence in the forest bungalow situated on a hillock. There were pine trees all along the route and patches of cultivation in terraces on hill slopes and along the valleys. The bridle-path is tortuous and follows the hillsides. Here some large-sized

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\* The account of the trip appearing in the following pages is taken from the diary kept by Dr. N. Rangachar during the time.

cardamoms were presented to His Highness by the local people. The night was fairly cool with a bright moon and there was mist in the valleys in which was running a small stream. The whole of the kit was carried on mules.

The next camp at a distance of about 10 or 11 miles was reached on the morning of the 28th. The first part of the journey was all uphill for about 3 or 4 miles till a cool ridge was passed, when the route was all downhill. All through there were pine trees and a halt was made at the forest bungalow as in the first stage. There were small plots of rice cultivation in the valley, where a small stream was flowing.

At 4 a.m. on the morning of the 29th the journey was commenced for the next camp, a distance of 12 miles, with the aid of lanterns as it was still dark. The party walked for about 4 or 5 miles along the course of the stream referred to above till the Sarju river was crossed, spanned over by a nice suspension bridge. As the valley was very narrow and tortuous, it was very warm even in the early morning. But the valley became broader towards the Sarju and after crossing this river on ponies, an ascent of two miles was made before the camp was reached. All the ryots of the village turned up in the evening to pay their respects to His Highness who graciously enquired after their welfare, and before they departed they shouted "Mysore Maharaja Ki Jai!" "Kilasa Jatra Ki Jai!" and went away quite pleased.

On the 30th as usual the party started early in the morning and reached the camp at a place called Berinag at 8 a.m. The first 6 miles were covered on foot as the path was mostly level. As towards the end there was a steep zig-zag ascent for about 3 miles, this was accomplished on horseback. On the way there were small villages with patches of cultivation. Before the next camp was made was full of huge pine trees. A large number of villagers turned up with their drums and welcomed His Highness. Here His Highness granted an interview to Bhakore Narayan Bhist, a wealthy land-lord who owned a tea estate and a dairy in the neighbourhood.

On the 1st July the next camp Thal at a distance of about 10 miles was reached. On the way the party met three European missionary ladies who had settled there.

On the 2nd July the next camp Sandeo was reached, a distance of 10 miles and on the 3rd July another camp Askot, about 5000 feet above the sea level. Here His Highness was welcomed by Rajwar Vikram Bahadur Pal, the biggest land-lord there, and by his uncle Kumar Khadga Singh Pal, a retired Deputy Collector. It rained throughout the day. In the valley a kind of paddy was grown which did not require a constant supply of water. There were also found many mango trees.

On the 4th July, Askot was left at 3-30 a.m. and the party descended down a steep valley for about 3 miles and where the roaring rapids of the Gowri Gunga was crossed, which joined the Kali Ganga a mile or so further on. The party then made an ascent on the right side of the Kali river in the opposite direction of its course, the path being quite narrow in some places and also very slushy on account of rain on the previous day. In some places the path was several hundred feet above the bed of the river, and the sides of the valley being almost perpendicular, the least slip by the ponies would have ended disastrously. The camp at Balavakot was safely reached at 8-30 a.m., a distance of 12 miles.

On the 5th July a start was made from this camp at 3-45 a.m. and the next camp Dharchula, a distance of 11 miles was reached at 7-30. In this part of the country were grown rice, maize, plantains, mangoes, lemons and oranges. At this camp His Highness was accommodated in the local school-building and the rest of the party were accommodated in tents. Near the camp, it was found that several coir ropes had been fixed across the river Kali to the Nepal side, and from one of the ropes a trapeze-like thing was hung with an inverted V-shaped piece of wood resting on the rope, from the two limbs of which the trapeze was hanging. People crossed the river just as a ~~monkey~~ monkey does, holding on to the rope by fingers and toes only, supporting their hips in the trapeze. Women and nervous people, however, actually sat on the cross-bar,

tied with a piece of cloth to the trapeze itself and were pulled across. His Highness granted an interview in the evening to Swami Anubhavananda of the Ramakrishna Thapovan situated at about a distance of two miles.

The next day's journey to the camp at Khela, a distance of 10 miles, was a very tiresome and difficult one. As the route was not negotiable by laden mules, the kit was all sent by coolies. The route followed up the course of the Kali was very narrow, in some places only 3 feet wide or even less. It was passable for about 4 miles and the last piece of about 4 miles was a very steep zig-zag ascent paved with rough stones and slippery. It made one feel almost giddy to look down into the valley. At Khela as there was no room to pitch tents, the party took up their residence in a few houses belonging to the Patwari of the place.

A halt was made at this camp on the 7th July and the party left on the 8th for the next camp at Thithla at a distance of 8 miles. This was reached at 9-30 a.m. It had rained heavily the previous night and the ground was all damp. The tents had been pitched in a small sloping field and the weather was so cold that warm clothing was called for. In the evening a good many villagers came to the camp for medicines and as much as could be spared was readily given.

On the 9th July Galagar was reached and on the 10th Malpa, a total distance of 21 miles. The latter was the most dangerous part of the route and tired the party very much. "We walked over rough stones and boulders," says Dr. Rangachar, "right on the river bank, now running this way and now that, up and down, helter-skelter! We again crossed the Kali where it was narrowest and began our ascents and descents through rugged narrow paths, always precariously clinging to the edge or side of a precipice." Captain Nabi Khan's poetic effusion relating to this march is amusing:

"From Galagar to Garbayang, we crawled eight miles  
Over boulders and rocks of every size,  
To call it a road is all damn lies,  
It is a short cut to Heaven, if you slip sideways,

The Medical Professor—what shall I say of his fate ?  
 Every few steps he progressed, he made a long wait.  
 For a mile we passed through the Nepal State,  
 The 10th of July is a memorable date.

Our beloved Maharaja, he led the whole way,  
 His kindness and charity, my words fail to say,  
 O ! Lord of the Kailas ! to you we all pray,  
 O ! Guard and protect him each hour of the day."

On the 11th July the party left at 5 a.m. for the next camp Budi and reached it at 9 a.m., a distance of about 7 miles. The party rode for about a mile and then had to walk, as it became unsafe to ride. The path was extremely narrow and, as usual, on the edge of a precipice, with gaps in several places due to landslips. These were bridged by beams thrown across and covered over with rough pieces of wood laid across, with earth on top. There were several landslips, some of them recent, and in one spot was heard a large stone falling into the valley with a crash as soon as the party had passed the place. It was raining most of the way. There were seen huge masses of snow in the water in the valley on either side of the route. The camp was pitched on a flat piece of ground about 2 acres in extent. There was bright sunshine till 4 p.m. and the weather afterwards became cloudy with chill winds blowing. The elevation of the place was 9600 feet.

The next day Garbayang a distance of 5 miles was reached. At Garbayang there was a school with 30 children who welcomed His Highness with songs. The elevation here was 10,500 feet and the temperature early in the morning was 56 degrees Fahrenheit. In the evening several Tibetans came to sell the locally made woollen carpets and boots. The sole of the boots was made of thick woollen twist and the top was made of multi-coloured pieces of broad cloth, velvet etc., and reached up to the knee. In some cases the sole which was an inch and a quarter thick was covered with thin leather. Here at some distance was witnessed the third day funeral ceremonies of the Bhotias. A quantity of wood had been piled up and set on fire, round which the people danced to the

music of drums and cymbals,—men, women and children—with a shield in the left hand and a naked sword in the right. Now and again, they drank from a small cup a kind of liquor prepared out of fermented rice and jaggery.

An enforced halt of 2 days was made at Garbayang as one of the bridges ahead required repairs. The night was very cool and on the next day from 8 in the morning till 2 in the afternoon, there was brilliant sunshine and then alternate sunshine and drizzling rain. Some Tibetans were found here with ponies for sale. These people kept their hair uncut, parting it the centre in front and plaiting it behind just as women in South India do. These Tibetans had very little growth of hair on the upper lip and no beard, but were found strong and sturdy. A Tibetan village headman from Takalakot said to be a military officer who had to mobilise a thousand fighting men when called upon by his Government to do so came here with another Tibetan supposed to be rich but in tattered garments. They paid their respect to His Highness and noted down the strength of the party, the weapons in their possession and the object of the visit and then left. Later, the Rani of Sanghai from the United Provinces, a most venerable-looking old lady who was also on a pilgrimage to Kailas, had an interview with His Highness. On the 14th there was nothing eventful. His Highness and some of the party went down to the river-bed for a walk and the advance party for the next camp left at 12 noon.

On the 15th July Garbayang was left at 6 a.m. and the next camp was Kalapani, a distance of a little over 9 miles. The party had to descend at first to the bed of the river Kali, a distance of about half a mile. It was very slippery and more than two inches of clay had stuck to the soles of the hob-nailed boots worn by the party. In very many places it was impossible to ride or go in a *dandie* and much walking was tiresome owing to the rarefied atmosphere. The altitude at the camp was 12,000 feet above the sea level, causing giddiness to a few of the party.

After making a halt on the 16th at Siangchum a distance of about 5 or 6 miles, the next camp Takalakot was reached on the

17th at 10-30 a.m., though at the time the party started, there was pouring rain. The village which was in Tibetan territory was fairly large. The houses were built of mud and stone and roofed over with mud on wooden joists and sticks. The villagers were found to be extremely ugly and dirty, varying in complexion from jet black to brown and all the men wore large ear-rings in their left ear. Immediately behind the Mysore camp on a ridge about 300 feet above was the residence of the Jungpon (a Tibetan Commissioner and District Magistrate) which looked like a castle. Attached to it was also a large Buddhist monastery. The Jungpon paid a visit to His Highness in the evening and presented some Tibetan carpets. The interview took place with the help of Bhotia interpreters and group photos were taken. He was accompanied by his daughter, a girl of 14 or 15 years who was much interested in the binoculars and cameras which the party carried. The Jungpon was tall and well-built and had an air of authority about him. Many Tibetans were revolving their prayer wheels. Here and there stones smeared with red earth were piled up, and amidst the piles sticks were fixed, to which rags of various colours were tied and on some of the stones Buddhist prayers were found carved.

On the 18th July at eight in the morning the Maharaja with some of the party started on a visit to the Jungpon. A zig-zag ascent had to be made over a pathway which was slippery on account of the soil being loose and stony. When the top of the ridge was reached, the Jungpon conducted His Highness through a narrow passage to his residence. After passing through a gate and ascending a few steps, the party entered a sort of courtyard in which his mules were housed and on a small terrace was tied his ferocious Tibetan dog, barking and tugging at his ropes to reach the strangers. Another dirty courtyard was reached through a flight of steps in which several blacksmiths and silversmiths were working at a saddle. They were very dirty and one of them was ferocious-looking. The Jungpon next conducted the party to his private room, where they were all seated. The room was dark with only one window and on one side there was an image of Buddha and various other images, with silver and bronze bowls



containing consecrated water, bells and other accessories of worship, all neatly arranged on wooden steps. The walls were painted with dragons, parrots, deer etc., on a green background, and the whole smelt of stale butter and ghee. For himself the Jungpon had a cosy raised dais with cushions and Tibetan carpets. Above him, on the wall were hung some firearms of Chinese make and a small stringed musical instrument on which he played some short Tibetan airs. A gramophone with some records was presented to the Jungpon and he was taught how to handle them. A pair of binoculars also was presented. The Jungpon having shown much interest in the nice Malacca walkingstick which had a dog's head with a silver muzzle carved at the end of its bent handle which His Highness held in his hand, the same was readily presented at which the Jungpon was mightily pleased. By the side of one of the passages was a dark room which was used as a lock-up.

Next, the party was conducted to a large adjoining monastery which was several storeys high, all with mud roofs, with small covered openings on the top for ventilation and the escape of smoke. In a fairly spacious hall supported on crudely carved pillars, there were wooden seats for the Lamas and long narrow mattresses for the smaller Lamas and the boy priests or novices arranged in rows for them to sit or eat their food.

On a higher level was the sanctum in which there was a clay image of a sitting Buddha painted in gold with a pleasing expression and another of the Dalai Lama, with various accessories for worship consisting of silver and brass cups, lamps full of butter with burning wicks, drums, cymbals etc., too numerous to mention. There was also a bowl made of the upper half of a human skull lined inside with silver plate out of which consecrated water was poured out with a spoon to the devotees. All round in shelves the library of the monastery had been arranged. The whole place was dark and smelt of stale butter. The Lamas and their pupils were very dirty and were clad in brown or chocolate gowns with a waist-band and had their heads close cropped. The chief Lama was then visited and he was found to be a very old man. He made kind enquiries regarding His Highness and others of the party and gave

some consecrated things consisting of some incense mixed with dry moss and a piece of thin muslin received from the Dalai Lama with his blessings. In all the dark passages there were the prayer wheels and drums, which the devotees turned round while passing. His Highness took leave of the Jungpon at about 11 a.m. and returned to camp under a hot sun.

In the evening at about 5 o'clock a party of Tibetan dancers, some men and two women, were sent by the Jungpon for the amusement of His Highness and the party. The dancers were all fantastically dressed, the men wearing masks and baggy trousers which bulged out when they danced round and the women wore several tassels round the waist that spread out along with their skirts. The dance lasted for about half-an-hour to the accompaniment of a Tibetan drum and a pair of brass cymbals worked by a woman. Several Tibetan curios such as carved painted tables or stools, bronze bells, silver filigree work, kettles were brought to the camp for sale.

There was not a drop of water on the ridge and women carried water in iron drums on their backs from the river. The Tibetan men and women were strong and sturdy and when they wished to show respect to others, they put their tongues out several times. They lived mostly on meat either fresh or dried and 'Sattu' (fried wheat powder) and rarely some kind of bread.

On the 19th July His Highness again paid a visit to the monastery and presented Khillats to the chief Lama who held a regular religious durbar. The head Lama took his seat on a special dais and he was first given consecrated water and some tea. The other Lamas were then given the same and betwixt chantings they all partook of dried meat, "Sattu", and some cake. The devotees made their offerings to the Lama and in return got his blessings.

On the 20th July a start was made at 5 a.m. to the next camp at a place called Rungung, a distance of about 8 miles. The elevation at this place was 14,400 feet. Perfect stillness prevailed throughout but for the jingling of bells on the necks of ponies belonging to the party or the bark of the village dogs. There were

no birds seen on the route. Rice was underboiled at these heights and the lips and noses of several of the party became cracked on account of the cold to which emollients had to be applied.

On the 21st July the next halting place Gori Odial about 11 miles was reached at 8-30 a.m., the march occupying about 3½ hours. Here were seen a few yaks that were used for carrying pack-loads.

The next day Manasarowar was reached, at a distance of about 10 or 11 miles, at about 9 in the morning. When the end of the Gurla Pass was reached, the sun rose and the mists cleared and a clear view of Lake Manas was obtained. After descending for about a mile from the Gurla Pass towards the Manas Lake and going for about 3 miles over the broad level ground along its shore, the camp was reached at about 9 a.m., pitched only about 30 feet from the water's edge and in full view of the lake, a distance of about 10 or 11 miles from the last camp. His Highness and all the Hindus in the camp bathed in the Lake and the water was so cold as made one gasp for breath. Tarpan or oblations were then offered to the names of ancestors, as this was a sacred lake not only for the Tibetans but for the Hindus also. The elevation was about 14,900 feet. The Rani of Sanghai also travelled with the Mysore party from Garbayang and some sadhus who were also on a pilgrimage to Kailas were helped with money and provisions.

## **CHAPTER XLV.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **The Maharaja as a Pilgrim—From Manasarowar to Mount Kailas and return.**

On the morning of the 23rd July, the party left the western shores of the Lake and went along its water's edge towards the north for about 6 miles. On the way on a steep hill with loose slippery side towards the lake, there was a monastery which His Highness visited. About here several ducks were seen of moderate size, some white in colour with a black patch over their heads and others grey or brown. There were also some kinds of smaller birds on the shore which flew away on the approach of the party. The camp which had been pitched at a distance of about 11 miles was reached at 9-30 a.m. Nearby was a hot sulphur spring and over the hillock was a monastery. About noon a glimpse of the Kailas peak was obtained through a gap in the clouds. Piercingly cold winds blew throughout the day, though the sun was shining.

On the 24th leaving at 5-30 a.m., the foot of the Kailas Range was reached at about 8-30 a.m., a distance of about 8 miles. On the way small hares were seen running about. There were only two houses near the camp and a large herd of yaks was seen here. On account of the rarefied atmosphere, it was found that neither man nor beast could exert much. There was here a Tarjan or assistant to the Jungpon who could depute any one he liked to act for him in his absence. His Highness visited his residence and was conducted to a somewhat dark room with a single small window, furnished in the same style as that of the Jungpon at Takalakot. There was also a stringed musical instrument like a Banjo on which the Tarjan played two short Tibetan tunes singing them himself at the same time. The dwelling of a Tibetan shepherd was also visited. It was a pit about 10 feet square and waist deep in the ground and smoothened with mud-paste and roofed over with cloth made of yak hair. There was a mudstove inside for cooking and in one corner there was a small image of Buddha with cups for water,

lamp etc. It was quite snug inside, the whole family residing in that single room. Many Tibetans, especially women, applied jaggery paste to their cheeks and over their nose as a cosmetic which made them hideous-looking. This they did to prevent cracks in the skin. There were also seen some black crows which were four times the size of those in India.

On the morning of the 25th July a start was made for the next camp at a distance of about 7 miles. The whole Kailas Range here became distinctly visible. The party had to cross over to the other side of the maidan which was mostly boggy with innumerable, small, tortuous streams coursing through it to go to Darchin where the camp was. In this place was the residence of the governor appointed by Sikkim to which country the place was stated to belong. The governor was known as the Raja Loba and the camp was pitched opposite to his residence with a hill stream intervening. The other abodes consisted of rowties only in which several families lived. As soon as the camp was reached, information was received that the governor had too much liquor the previous night and had very severe bleeding from the nose. He was treated by the Maharaja's doctors, Mr. Rangachar and his assistant, and it was found to be one of the worst cases treated by these doctors. The governor was a tall, sturdy, fair-complexioned individual with bushy hair and he recovered in the evening. After 5 p.m. His Highness with some of the party paid a visit to Gangta-Gompa, the biggest of the five Buddhist monasteries round about Kailas. It was not as big as the one at Takalakot but was equally dark and dirty inside. It was also a mud and stone storeyed structure. His Highness was received at the entrance of the monastery by an old Lama with burning incense, to the accompaniment of the blowing of trumpets, horns and other instruments on the topmost mud terrace. His Highness presented some red banath pieces and some cash to the monastery.

26th July—Darchin was at the foot of the Kailas Range on its eastern aspect. It was from this spot that pilgrims went to the right and finished circumambulation or parikrama of Mount Kailas. The party left camp at 5-30 a.m., followed the base of a ridge for

about 2 miles, when they came across a flat-bottomed valley with a river flowing through it and separating Mount Kailas from another hill chain. As the party entered the valley, they again turned to the right and followed up the river on level ground for about 5 or 6 miles and saw the peak in its southern and western aspects. About the middle of this valley there was a monastery known as Nendiphu on the other side of the river which was not visited. High up on the Kailas side, there were some ibex grazing. Owing to the high altitude and also on account of some sulphureous smell here and there, exertion was very difficult for both man and beast of the plains. The last 3 miles was a gradual ascent over loose stones to Didiphu, another small monastery on the side of a stream. The party was completely tired by 11 a.m. The camp had been pitched at the foot of Mount Kailas on fairly level ground and the Mount itself was very near. A good stream flowed down from the Kailas into a river down the valley.

In the evening Dr. Rangachar, Major Gopala Rao and the Tahsildar Mr. Pratap Singh mounted their ponies and went up a rocky and slippery ascent to the base of the Mount said to be 18,000 feet above sea level, the elevation of the camp itself being 16,200 feet. The base of the peak was almost a parallelogram and the Mount rose perpendicularly and the top was shaped like a dome. When they reached the base, they found two huge masses of snow had formed a buttress against it and through a triangular opening below at the junction of the two masses a beautiful stream was found gushing forth. In a small niche in a snow-wall was a beautiful snow Lingam about 9 inches high and 3 inches in diameter. The niche had the shape of a saracenic arch. It and the Lingam at its entrance were so perfect that it was difficult for the visitors to say if it was an accidental formation in the snow or the handiwork of any skilled devotee. As it was about to get dark, the visitors marched down carefully, in some places over hard snow, to the camp, collecting on the way three specimens of a flower known as Brahma Kamal or the Brahma Lotus, greyish in colour, and reached the camp at 7-30 p.m. Some pigeons near the camp were observed.

The second stage of the Parikram of Mount Kailas began at 5-30 on the morning of the 27th July. For the first 3 or 4 miles the route lay over a steep and stony ascent, tiresome both to men and animals, till a ridge called Gowrikund, 18,600 feet above sea level, the highest altitude during this trip, was reached. The ascent however was nothing to the local Tibetans. The Gowrikund was found to be a small frozen lake, with sheets of ice on it, with rough craggy sides. From this ridge an easy descent of about two miles over loose stones was made into the bottom of a valley through which a stream was flowing. The valley was quite marshy and added to the difficulties of the march. The sun was sharp and there was a sulphureous odour also. At short intervals were found several heaps of stones with carved Buddhist texts interposed. When the camp at Zindiphu was reached about 10-30 a.m., it was found to have been pitched right in front of a small, dirty monastery.

On the morning of the 28th when the party started as usual at 5-30 in the morning, a clear view of Goorla Mandhatha Range was obtained. After proceeding for 3 miles down the valley along the stream, Barkha maidan was again reached, the Parikram of Kailas being finished. Barkha itself was reached at 8-45 a.m., a distance of 7 miles. The party were pleased that their pilgrimage had thus far succeeded and that their return journey was begun. In the evening as the sun was setting in the western horizon, a mass of clouds above appeared golden and as the rest of the sky was clear, a distinct view of the whole Kailas was obtained, while the full moon rose on the eastern horizon.

On the 29th in deference to the wishes of the Rani of Sanghai, His Highness camped on the borders of the Manas 2 miles south of Jieu Gompa and many had a dip in the Manas as the day happened to be a full-moon day. The day was remarkable in that strong gusts of cold wind brought down all the rowties between 4 and 5 p.m. Subsequently the wind ceased fortunately. At about 7 p.m. in the eastern horizon opposite to the camp just where two ranges of hills sloped towards each other and in the gap the Brahmaputra flowed out of Lake Manas, the full moon—a

brilliant, beautiful, big sphere—slowly rose up leaving a long silvery column of its reflection in the calm waters of the lake and gladdened all, giving an opportunity to Mr. Nabi Khan to expose his camera. On the way a lean, lanky cheeta was observed to go up a hill.

Three more stages on the return journey were completed on the 30th and 31st July and 1st August respectively, a total distance of 32 miles. On the 2nd August the party proceeded to Khojarnath to visit a well-known monastery there. It was situated south-east of Takalakot on the Mopchu or Karnali river. On the way were found small, neat villages with well-cultivated plots containing luxuriant peas, barley and a kind of wheat which was called Jav and watered by diverted hill streams that formed neat canals. Each village had its sheep and cattle grazing on the green grass bordering the canals. The intense green of the cultivated fields was a pretty sight. The canals were bordered by some blue, wild flowers. The latter half of the route consisted of ascents and descents. The camp was reached in 4 hours.

The village of Khojarnath was in the Sikkim territory and consisted of a semi-circular plot of sloping ground, about 2 miles in diameter, with a chain of hills for a background and a broad river the Karnali separating it from another chain of hills on the Nepal side. The monastery was situated right on the river bank unlike other monasteries perched on steep precipitous hillocks. On entering through a crooked, covered passage, the party came to a square, open space with buildings on all the four sides. The main shrine was covered *terra cotta* with mud plastering outside the walls. On the terrace a round brass disc with a brass deer on either side greeted the eye in front. On entering the gate, there was a small courtyard the walls of which were painted with neat figures of Buddha, flowers and wild animals. On proceeding through an inner door on either side of which revolving prayer drums or casks covered with leather were fixed, the party came upon a small room on either side of which stood two painted clay giants about 8 feet high. It was said that one of them represented



Ravana. Beyond was a hall about 20 feet by 50 feet with wooden pillars in two rows, and two rows of seats covered with mattresses for the Lamas to sit in prayer. At the further end of the hall, there was an image of seated Buddha with all the accessories for worship. Behind this, there was a space of about 4 feet right across and at the farthest end of the hall over a pedestal about 4 feet high were 3 standing metallic images cast out of an alloy with more of copper in it, of Seetha, Rama and Lakshmana, each about 7 or 8 feet in height with a Prabhavali or a frame of Gothic shape behind them. The whole casting was of exquisite workmanship. Across the base of the pedestal, there was a perfect elephant at one end and a horse at the other end, and in between, several gods and goddesses in a sitting posture. Above this, there was something like the stalk of a lotus, on either side of which were two nymphs with bent backs and looking upward with folded hands. Then over this came the lotus petals, the lower half turned downwards and the upper half set upwards to form the top of the pedestal. On this stood the image of Rama with Seetha to the right and Lakshmana to the left. In fact, the pedestal formed a beautifully designed bracket for the images. The faces were painted nicely. There seemed to be more of silver in the alloy out of which the images had been cast. The Prabhavali or the setting frame showed designs of peacocks and other animals with some creepers and was very beautiful. There were also two lions crouching on either side of the base and when the hands were put behind the base, a gust of air was felt. The figures were draped in cloth of gold and some jewellery containing mostly torquoise and there was an embroidered head-gear also over each image. The whole casting was faultless and full of beauty. How old the images were it was unknown. There was also a narrow, dark passage for pilgrims to go round the main shrine. On a high bench facing the images, there were several large silver and gold bowls containing ghee with wicks placed in the centre and burning day and night. There was an open Prakar or compound round this building in which innumerable revolving prayer drums were installed. In a room there was a huge drum or cylinder about 10 feet high and 5 feet in diameter, with iron rings to set it going, and inscribed all

over with the sacred mantram "Om mani padme ham" in Tibetan script. The wheel was constantly revolved by an old woman sitting nearby. On coming out, the party turned into another door on the left and on entering a similar very large hall paved with mud and rough stones, found in a dark room a painted huge clay image of Buddha as if seated on a stool or chair. In a large room to the left of the hall there were several painted clay images of rishis or saints all seated cross-legged and in an attitude of prayer. Opposite to this room, *i.e.*, to the right of the hall, in another similar dark, large room there were again seven such, all sitting cross-legged but with their hands clasped in various attitudes denoting what were called *Mudras*. These latter were known as Saptarishis or seven saints. To the left of the Buddha shrine in another dark dungeon, there were two wild-looking figures of Kala and Kali, all of painted clay and leather. In one corner of the roof of the main hall, there were found suspended a crudely stuffed gigantic wild yak and a tiger. The party then adjourned to the first floor of the building where they were shown clay images of Kali and Lakshmi installed in a large library containing many printed Tibetan scriptures. This monastery was very much clearer than those seen before. The surroundings however were very dirty, and outside the building on a wall was shown in gigantic letters made of mud-paste and painted white the same "Om mani padme ham." Nearby was a small detached tower supported on a square base, with each side composed of a low, round arch. After leaving the monastery, His Highness and the party went to the residence of a young Lama higher up the valley—a neat building of mud and stone. The courtyard on the first floor had a wooden flooring and was neat and had nicely painted walls and wooden railings. On one side of this courtyard on a sort of gadi or dais sat the Lama aged only 16 and by his side on a lower seat was found a child Lama aged only 6 years. Both of them were supposed to be incarnations. Both were fair-complexioned and had a very smart appearance. The elder Lama had a bushy hair and was reading some scriptures. He had, it was said, made a vow not to stir outside the building for three years. He made kind enquiries of His Highness who presented him with two pieces of

red and bright blue banaths and some cash. The Lama gave to His Highness and the others his blessings and prasad.

From Khojarnath which was left on the 3rd August 1931 the return journey to Almora occupied 21 days, the latter place being reached on the 24th August. At Pala on the 5th August the Tibetan territory was left behind and the party entered the Indian territory. On the 6th August at Garbayang the local Bhotias danced in a circle before His Highness with a shield in the left hand and a sword in the right to the accompaniment of drums and cymbals. On the 9th August when the party was on its way to the camp at Galagar, a big stone fell injuring two or three coolies but not very seriously. Some tent poles they were carrying were smashed. On the way to the next camp Thithla a big stone got loose from above and Mr. Venkatasubbaiya and his pony had a hair-breadth escape, passing as it did right in front of him and falling into the valley. On the 15th a halt was made at Askot as it was raining heavily, and here the Rajwar Saheb invited His Highness and the party to tea. On the 19th on the way to the camp at Saniodhiar, the path lay through pine forests and several villages were passed on the way with their luxuriant crops and streams. Most of the villagers were waiting to have a *darshan* of His Highness and showered flowers on him when he passed them. There was a small orphanage maintained by an American missionary lady. On the 20th the camp at Bageshwar was reached. Bageshwar was found situated right on both the banks of the Sarju rapids. Here the party camped in the spacious dak bungalow which was situated only about 20 feet from the water's edge. To the left was a very nice suspension bridge, about 60 feet long, the width of the river. The elevation was 3200 feet. There were two bazaars, one on either side of the river. The people here gave a most enthusiastic reception to His Highness decorating the streets and showering flowers on him. The prominent citizens waited on His Highness in the evening and presented an address in Hindi, enclosed in an embroidered velvet bag, praying for a donation for extending the local school-building. On the 21st August Binsar was reached, a distance of 17 miles. His Highness camped in the bungalow of

Mr. Devi Lal Sha, a rich merchant of Almora. On the 24th Almora was reached and a halt of two days was made. During these two days His Highness granted interviews to Government officers and to several of the prominent citizens, and souvenirs, Khillats and liberal presents were given to all who had rendered service to His Highness. Almora was left on the 27th August and Mysore was reached on the 7th September, greatly to the joy of His Highness' subjects and of the members of the Royal family, thus completing the pilgrimage and returning safely to his Capital with all his followers after a hazardous journey of 2 months and 20 days.

## **CHAPTER XLVI.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Administrative and other improvements—1926—1936.**

##### **Census of 1931.**

The seventh Census was taken on Thursday the 26th February 1931 under the direction of Mr. M. Venkatesa Iyengar of the Mysore Civil Service who had been appointed Census Superintendent for Mysore. The total population of the State on the date mentioned was found to number 65,57,302 made up of 33,53,963 males and 32,03,339 females, the figures showing an increase of 5,78,410 over those of 1921. The rate of increase for the whole population was 97 per mille. This population of over 6½ millions was distributed in 16,591 towns and villages. The area of the State being 29,326 square miles, the density of the population in the State at the time of this Census was 224 persons per square mile as compared with 142 in 1881 and the increase was more than 50 per cent compared with the figures of the Census of 1881. Mr. Venkatesa Iyengar in his Report has made some observations on this growth of population which afford material for thought. "There are several reasons," he says, "for thinking that under present conditions the population of the State, if it has not overtaken, is at any rate running abreast of the means of subsistence. The first of these reasons is its low standard of living..... Information about the standard of living of the people in the State is lamentably lacking. A low standard of living, the prevalence of unemployment and the presence of a population which can migrate if a decent living were available elsewhere, seem together to indicate that the State has a population larger than its resources as now exploited can support in comfort."

##### **Encouragement to Trade and Manufacture.**

Further attention now began to be paid for the encouragement of the trade and industries of Mysore. The statistics of the railborne trade of the year 1924-25 showed a total trade during the year valued at Rs. 25.45 crores, the value of the imports being about Rs. 12.47 crores and that of exports about Rs. 12.98 crores.

Deducting from these figures the total value of the trade due to the Gold Mines—an industry conducted under exceptional conditions—the imports exceeded the exports by about Rs.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  crores. On the 30th September 1926 Sir Mirza Ismail convened a meeting at the Daly Memorial Hall, Bangalore, at which a large body of merchants, tradesmen, bankers and others were present and a discussion took place regarding the measures to be adopted for the expansion of both trade and manufacture. The Dewan explained that the foreign trade of the State passing through the railway no doubt showed some increase in the figures, being then about Rs. 2529 lakhs as against Rs. 1677 lakhs in 1913-14. A great deal, however, of this apparent increase was due to changes affecting the currency. The total value of the trade of the State per head of population was only Rs. 40 and both exports and imports were more or less stationary. The trade in grains and pulses, in piece-goods and cloth, in leather and skins, metals, oil-seeds and the like had passed from local merchants into the hands of outsiders from distant provinces in India who naturally took advantage of the openings they found in Mysore. It was time, said Sir Mirza, that the people of Mysore took a leaf out of their book and devised methods to give training in large business houses to their boys, popularising suitable schemes of apprenticeship for them. Further, it was necessary to improve the methods of saving by which the availability of cheap capital might be rendered automatic. Those interested in trade should travel not only in India but also in foreign countries in order to widen their outlook and strengthen their business connections. Ten years ago, the Dewan further said, a Chamber of Commerce was inaugurated in Bangalore, but a network of mercantile or Trades' Associations affiliated to the chamber or assisting it in its work and co-operating with it in its endeavours to further its objects was yet to be created. Sir Mirza while expressing the keen desire of His Highness' Government to afford all possible facilities for the protection and expansion of the trades and industries of the State, plaintively exclaimed that the trade conditions were still primitive in the State, that the importance and value of trade statistics had not yet been realised, and that enterprise and adventure were wholly lacking. No doubt, the Bank of Mysore

started some years ago had done good work and had been of yeoman service to the trade of the State, but there was still room for the expansion of its usefulness.

In furtherance of these objects, marketing surveys were subsequently conducted in collaboration with the Government of India in respect of rice, wheat, groundnuts, linseed, tobacco, fruit, eggs, milk, cattle, hides and skins. The virtues of Mysore goods came to be prominently advertised in most of the leading newspapers in India as well as in some of the newspapers in England. At Bombay a Mysore Emporium was organised in order to improve the sales of Mysore products and to facilitate an intensive propaganda being carried on. It was opened on the 14th April 1936 by Sir Chunilal Mehta. The emporium makes an effective display of the products of the Government factories, and facilities have been afforded to the private manufacturers also to display their articles.

#### **Revival of Dasara Exhibition.**

The Dasara Exhibition at Mysore was re-opened in 1927 after an interval of 8 years and has continued to be held regularly from that year. In 1928 Sir Mirza Ismail explained the objects of this annual exhibition in these words: "The real function of an annual exhibition like ours is to throw on the screen, so to speak, the industrial activities and progress of the country. Each year's exhibition should afford a cross section of the economic advance of the country and show in a striking manner the chief points of divergence and progress; and the Dasara at Mysore is the most appropriate time for this stock-taking, because people from all parts of the State and also from outside congregate here for the national festival in a care-free and receptive state of mind. As the exhibition should not only illustrate and record but also teach and suggest, it should be the special care of the Development Departments of the State to see that the most recent knowledge pertaining to their work is exhibited in an easily understandable form....."

#### **A Trade Commissioner for Mysore.**

In the year 1929 various defects were discovered in the arrangement that existed of entrusting the sale of sandal oil to

private agents. Government, therefore, deputed Mr. N. Madhava Rao (now a member of the State Council) to make a close investigation of the entire question in England and in America and to formulate proposals for the realisation of the moneys due to Government and for the adequate safeguarding of the sandal oil business. This executive measure, though it was primarily suggested by the requirements of the sandal oil business, later began to exercise a very important influence on the trade interests of the State in general, as it led to the permanent appointment of a Trade Commissioner in London for Mysore. This officer, in addition to his duties connected with the sandal oil business, has also been entrusted with other functions of great importance to the development of industries and commerce of the State. A close study of the exports and imports of the State for formulating proposals to conduct commercial transactions to the largest advantage of the State, the extent to which markets for Mysore products can be extended, the possibilities of supplying the requirements of foreign countries by the development of industries for which Mysore enjoys natural advantages, scientific and technical improvements in manufactures which may advantageously be introduced in Mysore, collection of commercial and industrial information having a bearing on the existing or potential industries of the State and making it available for those interested in commercial and industrial enterprises—these also engage the attention of the Trade Commissioner. Mr. N. Madhava Rao held the place of the Trade Commissioner till he was relieved by Mr. B. T. Kesava Iyengar of the Mysore Civil Service.

#### **Sericultural Developments.**

During the period between 1926-35 the silk industry was confronted with a serious set back, supporting as it did about one-eighth of the total population of the State. Due to the depressed state of the market in America and the depreciation of the Japanese currency, large quantities of foreign silk including artificial silk, especially from China, were dumped on the Indian market at very low prices. As a consequence, there was a marked fall in Mysore in mulberry cultivation, production of cocoons and silk products,



The export of silk goods from Mysore to outside places which amounted to 8,66,000 lbs in 1925-26 fell to 3,66,800 lbs in 1933, while the imports which were comparatively insignificant in the previous year rose to 1,64,400 lbs. The area under mulberry cultivation in the State decreased from 53,000 to 30,000 acres in seven years.

In 1932 a representation was made to the Government of India to increase the duty on raw silk and silk goods imported from China and Japan. The question was referred by that Government to their Tariff Board to investigate the case for protection. The Board took evidence and on its recommendation the Government of India passed a measure known as the Textile Protection Amendment Act, 1934, which afforded however no substantial protection as spun silk was given no protection.

In the meanwhile, the Mysore Government also took vigorous measures for guarding this industry from ruin. In March 1927 the Sericultural Department was transferred to the control of the Director of Industries and Commerce. An officer of the department was also deputed to study the requirements of the Northern India silk markets. It was found that the most serious drawback was the inferior quality of the reeling due to the primitive character of the appliances in use. An improved reeling machine patented under the name of 'The Mysore Domestic Basin' was designed by Mr. N. Rama Rao who was then Superintendent of Sericulture, his object being to supplant the local charka.

A central Sericultural Association was formed in 1927 and Mushir-ul-Mulk Mir Humza Hussain, a retired Member of the State Council was its first President. The Association proved itself a powerful ally of the department in propaganda work which was essential for a comprehensive improvement of the industry throughout the State. The first President died in the following year and his place was taken by Dewan Bahadur Mr. K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar, also a retired member of the State Council. A scheme of aided grainages introduced by the Government was adopted with enthusiasm by those concerned and the supply of disease-free eggs by Government farms began to be on a much

larger scale than before. The erection of a Silk Weaving and Dyeing Factory at Mysore was completed in November 1931 and work was commenced in January 1932. Mysore is now only one of the two States represented on the Imperial Sericultural Committee, the other being Kashmir.

#### **The Dasara Exhibition of 1935.**

The Exhibition held during the Dasara of 1935 was managed by a special committee of which Rajamantrapravina Mr. S. P. Rajagopalachar, Member of the State Council, was the chairman and Mr. S. G. Sastry was the secretary, and the exhibits were so arranged as to give a panoramic view of the progress made by Mysore in arts and industries. More than a lakh of people visited the exhibition. One noticeable feature of the exhibition of this year was the increased attention paid to the educative side and the importance attached to manufacture rather than to retail sales as in previous years. As this aspect was specially kept in view by the various departments of the Government of Mysore, special efforts were made by them to exhibit the various activities in which they were engaged. The very useful castings made at the Mysore Iron Works, the fine sugar from the Mandya Sugar Factory, the unrivalled quality of the Mysore sandal oil, the beautiful fabrics shown in the stall of the Silk Weaving Factory, the modern ploughs and spraying machines manufactured by the Central Industrial Workshop, the insulators produced by the Porcelain Factory, the guaranteed medicinal products of the Industrial and Testing Laboratory, the artistic furniture of the Chamarajendra Technical Institute, the children's dream in the form of new toys prepared at the Chennapatna Industrial School and last but not least, the well-known products of the Mysore Soap Factory—all these were objects of great attraction. Another feature of the exhibition was the number of demonstrations arranged by the Department of Industries and Commerce. The Government Soap Factory, Bangalore, demonstrated the process of soap-making by the cold process which was capable of being practised as a home industry. The same factory showed the different processes of toilet soap manufacture. The Government Industrial and Testing

Laboratory demonstrated the process of manufacture of medicinal tablets. Other demonstrations related to the manufacture of electrical accessories, manufacture of improved varieties of bangles, improved appliances in handloom weaving industry and to results of sericultural research.

A special feature of the exhibition of this year was the part played by the British Indian Postal Department in getting up for the first time a show of their own under the guidance of Mr. G. V. Bewoor, Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs. In this section were shown by models the various methods of handling the mail in India, such as steamship, railway, aeroplane, models of letter-boxes, Post Offices and their appurtenances. There was also a model illustrating the handling of the mail between Mysore and Munnar, P.O., in the high range. On this route the mail was carried by bus, rail, bullock-cart, ropeway and runner. There was also a Broadcasting Section and here was exhibited a clock which showed the time in a great number of towns in both hemispheres simultaneously. The Telegraph, Telephone and Engineering Sections displayed a variety of instruments of considerable value. The various apparatus in use since the telegraph was first introduced into India was also clearly illustrated, as also the effect of corrosion by sea-air etc., on metal and the effect of lightning on the porcelain insulators. Three Telephone Exchanges—Automatic, Central Battery system and Repeater had been set up, also Bandot Teleprinters, open and closed Morse Circuits, so that visitors could see the actual working of the instruments. A small but valuable collection of old and current stamps provided interest for Philatelists, and a film showing the Post Office work in the city of Mysore was projected automatically on a Kodascope in the Post Office portion of the stall. The Neopost Franking Machine which was rapidly replacing the adhesive stamps was specially interesting to businessmen and journalists.

Ranging next to the Government of India exhibits was a grand show arranged by the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, under the inspiration of its Director, Sir C. V. Raman. The contributions to science both on the theoretical and practical side by the Director

of the Institute and its staff and students was vividly brought before the public.

Among the exhibitors was the firm of Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, Ltd., of Tokio in Japan who for the first time displayed in Mysore products of the various groups of industries under their control. These exhibits gave the visitors an idea of the tremendous advance made by Japan in recent years in the development of her industries.

His Highness the Yuvaraja at the close of the exhibition distributed the prizes and made the following observations:—"We have just come to the conclusion of a Navaratri festival which in the dignity of its ceremonial, in the brilliance of its pageantry, in respect of the delights to the eye, the refreshment to the mind, the sport and amusement provided, and in the multitude which have come to enjoy it, has surpassed any of the most brilliant of its predecessors..... Business to-day consists in persuading the crowd. Advertising is the principle of mass production applied to selling. Anybody can cut prices, but it takes brains to make a better article. Business is never so healthy as when, like a chicken, it must do a certain amount of scratching for what it gets. These aphorisms which I have taken, not from the eloquent speeches made at this exhibition but from the sayings of business magnates such as Mr. Henry Ford, are nevertheless inherent in the advice that has been given to you from year to year. It has been suggested to you that what you want is village exhibitions, taluk exhibitions and district exhibitions leading up to one great Dasara Exhibition at the top of the pyramid. Then again, you require sectional exhibitions such as are common in European countries, at which each business in turn is given an opportunity of showing its products. Thus you have in England exhibitions of machines, of motors, of baking and confectionary, of dairy goods, of cloths, of toys, and of numerous other groups of articles; and great premises which would accommodate this exhibition many times over are kept busy almost throughout the year with one sectional exhibition or another.

"Let me take one instance of a sectional exhibition that I think would be infinitely invaluable to Mysore, and that is the one that is suggested by His Highness the Maharaja in his speech here in 1929—an Ideal Home Exhibition. You have now a great boom in building activity in the State and this is likely to increase if the scheme for promoting House-Building Co-operative Societies comes to pass. But which of you knows exactly what he wants in his home?..... The idea of the home is developing from year to year and in England, for instance, there has been an enormous advance in the standard of comfort by the application to common use of innumerable inventions as a result of Ideal Home Exhibitions and the giving of prizes for the houses that give the greatest amount of convenience for a limited sum. One of the best known is the "Daily Mail House," and in that country a man of moderate means who wishes to maintain a certain standard of convenience can quite easily do so without going through the elaborate process of employing architect, builder, etc., and learning by trial and error, if he simply goes to a House-Building Society and says that he wishes a house constructed on one or other of the standard plans. I feel that, in circumstances like these, an Ideal Home Exhibition would do an enormous amount to stimulate the building trade, to promote the creation of House-Building Societies, and above all, to increase the standard of comfort of the would-be householder without involving him in unnecessary expense. If you would add to that an exhibition of an idealised furniture which would combine Eastern ideas of art with Western ideas of utility, you would carry the idea one large stage further towards perfection. .... The year that has just passed has seen a marked advance in the publicity activities of our State..... It is essential that none of us, and especially none of our business people, should slacken in the effort both to keep Mysore goods in the shop window and to see that there are plenty more in the shop behind to justify the display. There is no better advice on this subject than that of Sir W. S. Gilbert :

"If you wish in this world to advance,

"Your merits you are bound to enhance,

" You must stir it and stump it,  
" And blow your own trumpet,  
" Or, trust me, you have'nt a chance."

## **CHAPTER XLVII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Various measures tending to the increase of material prosperity—1926—1936.**

##### **Gold Mining.**

It will be remembered that the Gold Mining leases were renewed in December 1901 for a period of 30 years commencing from 1910. The representatives of the Mining Companies applied in 1934 for a further renewal of the leases, so that they might know where they would stand in 1940 when the earliest lease was due to expire. Accordingly the question was taken up for consideration and fresh terms advantageous to the State were agreed upon for a further period of 30 years from 1940. According to the new terms, the State is to receive from the year 1940, in addition to the five per cent Royalty on all gold produced, a Royalty calculated on dividends varying from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent to 40 per cent as the percentage of dividend increased. In the interval between 1934 and 1940 it was stipulated that the Mysore Government was entitled to receive a yearly Royalty on dividends calculated at two-thirds of the scale fixed for the new lease in lieu of the fixed  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent as settled in 1901. By this arrangement the State obtained the advantage of participating to an increasing extent in the profits of the Companies both during the interim between 1934-40 as well as in the future from the latter year, while the Companies were enabled to arrange their plans of working with a definite assurance of continuing in possession of the mines for a further period of 30 years. As a result of the new agreement concluded with the Companies and partly as the effect of increased production and partly as the effect of increased prices of gold, an increase under Royalty amounting to Rs. 9.80 lakhs accrued in 1935, besides an increase of income-tax amounting to Rs. 1.63 lakhs.

##### **The Bhadravathi Iron Works.**

The Bhadravathi Iron concern is now showing signs of improvement. At the time the operations were started at Bhadravathi, there was a general depression in the iron industry of the world.

The coal strike in England and the fall in the French and Belgian Exchange affected the sale of Mysore charcoal pig iron in England and on the continent. As some wrong impression prevailed regarding the working of the iron mines, a committee of visitors was appointed in 1928 from among the members of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council with a view to their obtaining and disseminating first-hand information regarding these works. Sir M. Visvesvaraya who had been chairman of the Board of Management for 6½ years retired in 1929, his place being taken by Sir M. N. Krishna Rao, a Member of the State Council.

The market for lime acetate was considerably disturbed in November 1929 by financial troubles in America and the position was also subsequently rendered worse by the competition of synthetic acid. The iron industry in India was in a somewhat difficult position in 1930. The production was in excess of the country's demand for iron and the export markets hitherto available for the disposal of the surplus were rapidly contracting. But the importance of the industry for national well-being could hardly be over-estimated. A concern which manufactured only intermediate products or relied largely upon an outside market was always at a disadvantage. The Management therefore aimed at developing gradually the manufacture of finished articles which could find a ready market in the country.

In 1933 the position became worse by Japanese competition as regards cast iron pipes. A representation was made to the Government of India under the Anti-Dumping Law. The Iron and Steel Duties Act of 1934 of the Government of India extended protection to iron and steel products for seven years up to March 1941 and gave some relief for the time being.

To tide over these difficulties, a Steel Plant was installed and has been in operation from about the beginning of 1936. As a result, the operations have yielded a profit which for the year from July 1935 to the end of June 1936 are calculated to amount to about Rs. 2 lakhs. The open-hearth furnace in the Steel Plant was started on the 7th March 1936 and the Rolling Mills in the first week of April. About 3700 tons of steel ingots, 2000 tons of



billets and 1250 tons of finished sections were manufactured up to the end of August. Most of the troubles usually met with in the initial stages have now been overcome. The furnace is designed to give a daily output of 80 tons. The steel produced is found to be exceptionally pure on account of very low percentages of phosphorous and sulphur and is regarded as an ideal raw material for special and other alloy steels. The high tension line from Mysore to Bhadravathi supplies electric power to the plant for its working.

### **Economic Depression.**

The economic activities, as we have seen, had received a check for some years past. In 1927, however, the Economic Superintendents were reappointed, one for each district. Statistics of trade were incomplete as the trade across the frontier by road was not taken into account, only figures relating to railborne trade being ascertainable. Arrangements were therefore made in 1929 to collect statistics of trade passing across the more important trade routes. But in 1931 it became necessary on account of general depression to suspend the work of the Economic Conference and to terminate the appointment of Economic Superintendents, the Revenue Sub-Division Officers being entrusted with the work of economic development in the districts.

The unparalleled economic collapse which began in 1931 all over the world seriously dislocated the international trade. The fall in commodity prices raised in about two years the real burden of indebtedness by more than fifty per cent, falling with special severity on countries in which the chief occupation was agriculture and where primary commodities were largely raised for export. Consequent on the suspension of the gold standard by the Government in England, the downward trend in prices of commodities was checked for some time but it was shortlived. In 1931-32 the balance of railborne trade against Mysore was a little over Rs. 2 crores, exports being a little over 8 crores and imports a little over 10 crores of rupees. As Sir Mirza Ismail stated at the Birthday Session of the Representative Assembly of the above mentioned year, the causes were various for the phenomenal economic depression that overtook the world. There had been,

according to Sir Mirza's analysis, slumps before; but what distinguished the present slump was the extent and appalling rapidity of the fall resulting in world-wide embarrassment and inconvenience. No one could say definitely whether this world-wide depression was due to the paucity or the maladministration of the world's supply of gold, to over-production or under consumption, to the fall in the price of silver, to the multiplication of the tariff barriers since the German War especially in Europe, or to all these causes put together. Production and consumption had got out of step all the world over and people were faced with the paradox of hunger caused by too much plenty. "A policy of courage," concluded Sir Mirza, "is however the proper policy for Mysore, and it is not therefore proposed that we should shut down Bhadravathi or any of the other State industrial establishments or call a halt in our schemes for development. On the other hand, we have proposed that we should go ahead with the Irwin Canal, with the new Silk Factory and with the electrification of towns and similar schemes."

#### **Extension of Electric Power.**

In 1928 negotiations with the Madras Government were completed for the supply of electric power from Sivasamudram to Mettur at a cost of about Rs. 10½ lakhs and the work having been completed, power was supplied from the 23rd November 1928 till June 1934. The Automatic Telephone was introduced in the Bangalore and Mysore Cities and between them and opened to the public. Every facility was afforded to the ryots to instal power-driven pumps for irrigation purposes and the concessions allowed were utilised freely. Power was also supplied to various places for purposes of illumination. Arrangements were made early in November 1931 for the supply of power to Salem and Erode towns in the Madras Presidency from the power station at Mettur. In 1935 the Krishnarajasagara Hydro-Electric and Irrigation Works represented an investment of capital between Rs. 7 and Rs. 7½ crores. The introduction of electric power in rural parts has encouraged the growth of several industries by substituting mechanised power in place of manual labour. The ryot who used to bail the water from his well by bullocks has in many places now

begun to realise the advantages of an electric pump by the help of which he is able to pump water at the rate of about 2000 gallons per hour. With the advent of electricity in rural areas, other small power installations have also sprung up. The electric flour-mill, the electric decorticator, the electric power loom are now to be seen in several of the rural parts.

#### **Hand-Spinning.**

A great deal of enthusiasm was evoked in hand-spinning and a Spinners' Association was formed and spinning demonstrations and competitions were organised in many centres. The most notable work in hand-spinning done during the decade was at Badanval near Nanjangud, where an attempt was made to ascertain by intensive work the prospects of reviving the hand-spinning industry as a subsidiary occupation among poor agriculturists. The organisation showed healthy signs of growth within the period of its existence extending to about four years.

#### **Railways.**

The Nanjangud-Chamarajanagar railway having been completed, it was opened for traffic by the Maharaja on the 27th August 1926. In the year 1919 the construction of this line was first undertaken by Government, but after a time the work was suspended owing to financial stringency. The Government, however, was subsequently enabled to resume the work by the Mysore District Board undertaking to finance the construction of the line as a District Board Railway out of the proceeds of a debenture loan of Rs. 8 lakhs, to which was added a portion of the railway cess which was being levied.

His Highness on the occasion of opening this railway expressed regret that he was opening only a very small part of the railway, that between Nanjangud and Chamrajanagar. It was at one time intended to continue the line to Erode. But the conversion of the line from Erode to Trichnopoly from the metre gauge to the broad gauge rendered through connection by that route no longer desirable. It was however understood that it was intended to build metre gauge connections from Gopichettipalyam on the one hand to Satyamangalam and Mettupalyam, and on the other, via Tiruppur and

Dharapuram to Palni. These connections would give a through metre gauge link from Dharwar on the north to Madura on the south, or in other words, would bring lines which traverse the whole length of the Mysore State on to a direct route between Bombay and Colombo. The Government of Mysore, His Highness said, was ready to undertake the portion of this length that lay within the State, if the remaining portion was undertaken by the British Government.

His Highness also at this time gave expression to a new railway policy, namely, that of Government undertaking to build railways on behalf of District Boards to meet local requirements on the latter undertaking a guarantee against loss and interest charges. In such cases the railway cess where it was voted by the District Boards was to be treated as a fund out of which the amount so guaranteed was to be met.

During this period the construction of the Shimoga-Arasalu railway up to Ragihosahalli, a distance of 19 miles, was also resumed and completed up to Anantapur. A serious danger to railway traffic, especially passenger traffic, now began to show itself by automobile buses running parallel to railway lines. Excepting the small broad gauge line of 55 miles between Bangalore and Bisanantham, the whole of the railway system in the State built at a cost of Rs. 6 crores belonged to Mysore.

Before leaving the subject of communications, reference may be made to the new policy of co-operation inaugurated in 1929 between the Government of India and the Indian States in certain matters, especially in the matter of road development and to which Sir Frank Noyce, Industries and Commerce Member of the Government of India, alluded in his speech on the 8th November 1935 on the occasion of the opening of the Vani Vilas Bridge across the Kapini near T-Narsipur. This bridge cost about Rs. 3½ lakhs, one half of which was met from the reserve of the Government of India in the Road Account. The Kaveri Bridge close by which was built entirely at the cost of the Mysore State opened a direct route to Sivasamudram, while the Kapini bridge

connected the same road with Kollegal and other important places in the Madras Presidency. This co-operation between the British Government and the Governments of the Indian States was the outcome of a recommendation made by the Indian Road Development Committee. This Committee proposed the creation of a Road Fund by the levy of an additional duty of customs on excise and petrol. The Committee also urged on the Government of India that they should not stand on narrow legal grounds excluding Indian States from the benefits of the fund. The Mysore State accordingly came to share, in common with the other large States, in the fund on the basis of the petrol consumed within her borders and was eligible to receive grants from the reserve for specially selected projects and for schemes of research and experiments. From the year 1930 the Mysore State received over Rs. 12 lakhs from this fund as its ordinary share.

#### **Irrigation.**

The extension of irrigation received vigorous attention in this period. Detailed plans and estimates for the excavation of the High Level Canal, subsequently named Irwin Canal in order to perpetuate the memory of the visit to Mysore of Lord Irwin the Viceroy of India, were the first to come under examination. A committee presided over by Sir M. Visvesvaraya appointed to investigate this problem in all its aspects unanimously approved an estimate of Rs. 180 lakhs for the work and recommended that the work should be started without delay. The Government accepted this recommendation and sanctioned the construction of the High Level Canal at a cost of Rs. 222 lakhs which was expected to bring under irrigation 1,20,000 acres in the taluks of Mandya, Malavalli and T-Narsipur. In the excavation of this canal, there was need to bore a tunnel to a total length of 9183 feet. The borings from the several sides exactly coincided and the whole work relating to the tunnel, including the lining of masonry, was completed in the early part of 1931. The waste weir gates were prepared at the Bhadravathi Iron Works.

The Irwin Canal supplies water to an area hitherto practically dry. The Krishnarajasagara Works constitute a combined

hydro-electrical and irrigational project of great magnitude costing nearly Rs. 5 crores. The Krishnarajasagara Dam was practically complete by about the end of 1932. It was the largest engineering work undertaken in the State and a standing monument to the talent, skill and resources of the engineers of the Mysore Public Works Department, of whom Rajasevasaktha Dewan Bahadur Mr. K. R. Seshachar was the most prominent.

#### **Establishment of a Sugar Factory.**

It was anticipated that when irrigation was fully developed in the Irwin Canal area about 40,000 acres of land would be annually cultivated with sugarcane. For the economic handling and disposal of this considerable volume of sugarcane, a sugar factory was needed even from the beginning. The sugar industry in India was protected by a duty on imported sugar. The committee appointed to work out the details connected with the use of the water of Krishnarajasagara presided over by the late C. S. Balasundaram Iyer who was then Member of Council, had provided in their scheme for the introduction of the sugarcane crop which was more profitable than rice. In 1933 a scheme for an enquiry into the cost of production of sugarcane was sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research for a period of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years and the experiment of growing thick varieties of sugarcane was carried on in certain selected villages. It was, however, a long step from growing sugarcane to organising production on a scale suitable for factory use. New varieties had to be produced, new methods of cultivation and irrigation tried out and put into practice and a satisfactory rotation arrived at. It had also to be arranged that the cane crop came forward to the factory in such quantities on each day that the factory could handle and was not choked with cane at one period and stopped for want of it at another. The credit of overcoming the initial difficulties was due to Dr. L. C. Coleman who was then Director of Agriculture in Mysore and the factory commenced work from the 15th January 1934 under the management of a company known as the Mysore Sugar Company, the Government possessing the largest number of shares in this company. In order to avoid waste in respect of the

bye-products, it was decided to utilise the molasses produced in the factory for the distillation of alcohol, both potable and industrial, and with this view the Central Distillery was shifted from Bangalore to Mandya where the sugar factory existed and the contract for the manufacture of country spirits was entrusted to the Mysore Sugar Company which managed the factory. The Sugar Factory which finished its first complete year of working on the 30th September 1934 returned a profit of 10 per cent on its shares.

#### **Agreement with the Madras Government.**

A dispute between the Madras and Mysore Governments arose regarding the interpretation of certain rules of the agreement of 1924. According to that agreement, the minimum flow of the Kaveri that had to be ensured at the upper anekat in the Madras territory before any water was impounded in the Krishnarajasagara had been fixed on the basis of certain gauge readings at the Kaveri Dam and it had been agreed that the discharge connoted by the gauge readings should be finally fixed on the basis of the gaugings of the 10 years ending 1926. Later however, the Mysore Government demurred to this arrangement on the ground that the floods of 1924 had brought about a state of affairs not foreseen at the time of the agreement. The Durbar therefore proposed that the period taken as the basis for calculating the discharges should be the 7½ years preceding the floods of 1924. The Madras Government were not agreeable to accept this proposal and as attempts to reconcile the divergent views of the two Governments in a manner acceptable to both were unsuccessful, the good offices of the Government of India were sought for and recourse was had to arbitration. Sir A. Page, Judge of the Calcutta High Court, was appointed arbitrator with two expert assessors nominated by the two Governments, one each. As a result of this arbitration, an agreement was finally arrived at and accepted by the two Governments.

Under the 1924 agreement with Madras, besides the 1,25,000 acres under the Krishnarajasagara, Mysore was entitled to irrigate 1,10,000 acres more by constructing additional reservoirs in the Kaveri valley and its tributaries. Investigations made showed that under the Kapini 40,000 acres could be secured for irrigation

and the remaining area in the Hemavathi and Lakshmanathirtha valleys. Mysore was also at liberty to extend irrigation by improvement of duty under each of the existing channels in the Kaveri valley by  $33\frac{1}{2}$  per cent of the area irrigated in 1910 remaining unsubmerged.

The Krishnarajasagara Dam is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  miles long and is intended to store up water to a depth of 124 feet at full reservoir level. At the entrance to the Dam, an ornamental gate-way has been built from which a concrete road leads onwards over the Dam. Below the Dam is situated the "BRINDAVANA" (Terrace Gardens) laid out on both sides of the river. At the entrance to the garden on the south side, in a niche built in the face of the Dam is located a beautiful image of the goddess Kaveri with a bowl in her hand from which a continuous stream of water flows indicative of continuous prosperity and benevolence. On the eastern side is an orange grove with a plant nursery for ornamental, shady and economical trees supplying plants to different parts of the State. At another place is a Government experimental orchard where all varieties of fruits are grown. The variegated colours of the beds with a large number of ever-playing fountains great and small arranged all over, with the subdued roar of the cascades from the pavilions give the whole place the appearance of a wonder land. At night a string of electric lights adorn the full length of the Dam and mildly illuminate the flowery landscape below. The Kaveri image is illumined with a stream of small lights. These with the coloured illumination of the fountains present an appearance which is marvellous and enchanting to a degree. The fountains play day and night and people in a position to judge have declared these as one of the finest gardens in the world unequalled for their beauty and grandeur.

Another irrigation project completed in the middle of 1936 was the Anjanapur Reservoir in the Shimoga district. The people of the Shikarpur taluk were repeatedly urging on the Government during a period of nearly 50 years the desirability of constructing a reservoir across the river Kumudvathi and providing them with irrigational facilities. The scheme had at one time been investigated but given up for want of a suitable site for the weir.



In the year 1927 when the Dewan, Sir Mirza Ismail, toured in Shimoga district, the people of the taluk again made a representation to him for the construction of the reservoir and agreed also to pay an acreage contribution of Rs. 50 and assessment at Rs. 10 per acre. Further investigation of the project was immediately ordered and a masonry dam across a narrow gorge with two channels therefrom was at first thought of, but due to the unsatisfactory condition of the rocky substrate so essential for a masonry dam, that project was given up. Later, further surveys were undertaken and an earthen bund at an other site was decided upon. An estimate costing nearly about Rs. 18 lakhs was sanctioned in November 1927. Work was started early in 1928 and it took eight years to complete the reservoir.

On the 3rd September 1936 Rajamantrapravina Mr. Rajagopalachar, Member of the State Council in charge of the Dewan's duties, performed the opening ceremony and during the course of his speech said that the development of a virile and prosperous peasantry which would give strength to any country was to be welcomed and should be the main aim of any Government worth the name. The construction of this reservoir, he further said, bore a fresh testimony to the fact that in Mysore both the people and Government took a live interest in promoting agricultural prosperity.

The earthen bund is 5000 feet long and at the deepest portion of the reservoir the height of the bund is 66 feet and the foundation is 20 feet below the bed of the river. The width of the bund at the bottom is 352 feet. The waste weir is 885 feet long. Two channels, one on the right  $18\frac{1}{2}$  miles long and another on the left  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles long to irrigate 7812 and 1832 acres respectively, have been provided for. The right bank channel when completed is also expected to provide water supply to the Shikarpur town which during the summer months at present suffers badly for want of adequate supply of drinking-water.

## **CHAPTER XLVIII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Various Administrative Improvements—1926—1936.**

##### **Measures relating to Agriculture.**

A Regulation known as the Coffee Cess Regulation was enacted in 1926. An experimental coffee farm was established at Balehonnur, half the cost of which was borne by the coffee planters. It was placed in charge of an officer of high attainments who resided on the spot and was assisted by a scientific staff competent to deal with all aspects of the problem. Subsequently, the equipment of the farm was improved and a small advisory committee consisting of Indian and European planters was constituted in 1928 to assist the Director. Later at the request of the United Planters' Association of Southern India which came forward to co-operate with the Mysore Agricultural Department, a European scientific officer employed by the Association was placed to work under the Director of Agriculture at this experimental station. The cultivation and study of cardamoms and pepper were also included in the programme of work of the station.

In 1927 the Government sanctioned a scheme for the supply of small electrically driven pumps on hire-purchase system for pumping water from the wells. The Electrical Department undertook to supply and instal the pumping outfits complete and to put them into operation at the start. No extra assessment was levied when dry lands were irrigated by means of these pumping installations.

Agricultural education made steady progress. In addition to the residential school at Ramakrishnapur which owed its existence to the generosity of Mr. G. Venkataramaniah, a citizen of Bangalore, a school was also established at Hassan at the instance of the District Board.

Now turning to agricultural improvements, two measures sanctioned in 1929 were calculated to have far reaching effects.

The first was the conversion of the Nagenahalli farm into a paddy-breeding station where work on the improvement of this important crop was actively pursued. The second was the organisation in the Agricultural Department of a section to control the distribution of pure seed of the new varieties of crops grown on various farms maintained by the department. The Royal Commission on Agriculture laid stress in their report on the importance of providing an agency such as this and the Mysore Government was the first in India to take action on their recommendation. An interesting development was the manufacture of improved ploughs by local blacksmiths and many of them proved to be excellent copies of imported ones. Other agricultural implements the sales of which were steadily growing were cultivators and sugarcane mills and both these came to be almost entirely of local manufacture.

### **Record of Rights.**

The Land Revenue system in Mysore presented certain defects which were repeatedly urged on Government as calling for remedial measures. The rules did not provide for the compulsory mutation of Khates with every change of title and for the separate recognition of all persons having interest in land as mortgagees and owners of portions of Survey Numbers or co-sharers in the Revenue Accounts. Much difficulty was also experienced by Government in the collection of land revenue as the collecting officials did not know as to who was responsible for the payment of assessment. There were also frequent complaints about the disabilities caused to the inferior holders whose rights were not safeguarded by the existing law.

To remedy these shortcomings, the Mysore Land Record of Rights Regulation was enacted in April 1927 and the rules under the Regulation were also issued soon after. The scheme was for the first time introduced in 1927-28 in three selected taluks and was received with great willingness by the people and the scheme is being gradually extended to all parts of the State.

The salient features of this Regulation are—1. A Record of Rights is to be maintained for every village giving particulars of the names of all persons who are holders, occupants, owners or mortgagees of land, or the assignees of its rent or revenue, and the nature and extent of the interests of such persons. 2. It is made obligatory for all persons acquiring rights in land to report the fact to the authorities concerned leading to suitable modifications of the entries recorded, thereby keeping the Record of Rights up-to-date. 3. No suit or application relating to agricultural land is to be entertained in civil courts unless accompanied by certified extracts from the registers maintained under this Regulation. An entry in the Record of Rights is to be presumed to be true until the contrary is proved. 4. Every plot of land belonging to different persons in the same Survey Number is to be separately measured and mapped and particulars regarding area and assessment of each such sub-holding are to be recorded separately in the register.

The objects of the scheme are, in the words of the Government Notification, to check litigation in regard to land and to facilitate its disposal by the courts, to reduce unnecessary expenditure by the ryots in executing and registering documents and to protect them against fraud and fabrication of false claims. The Record is also intended to be of assistance to Government as well as to the ryots in the distribution of assessment among the various claimants, the grant of takavi and land improvement loans and the grant of suspension or remission of land revenue. The system incidentally facilitates the work of the Land Mortgage Banks and other forms of credit societies by presenting clearly the facts about the value and security of mortgaged lands.

#### **Improvement of Live-Stock and Veterinary Aid.**

One of the most important problems connected with agriculture in Mysore is the improvement of live-stock and Mysore cattle have a deservedly high reputation in India and large numbers are exported annually to places outside the State. The Government realising fully the existing and potential value of live-stock and the importance of its improvement appointed in 1929 a strong committee consisting of representatives from all the districts and

experts to investigate the whole question of agricultural improvement, including the control of epidemic diseases. A Serum Institute had been established in 1928 in order to save animals from epidemics. Further measures were also now taken to provide better breeding stock by establishing a large cattle-breeding station at Ajampur in the Kadur District. Almost all the taluks were also provided with veterinary dispensaries, the buildings required being donated in several instances by private persons.

### **Unemployment and Bhadra Agricultural Colony.**

At the Economic Conference held in 1929, Dr. Coleman in a speech he made laid considerable stress on the necessity of an attempt being made to place young men trained in agriculture on the land and referred to the extensive areas in the State, more especially in Amrut Mahal Kavals and date-reserves and under the new sources of irrigation where also a sound agricultural training would enable young men without occupation to earn a decent living. The Government had also appointed a committee presided over by the late C. S. Balasundaram Iyer, then Member of the State Council, to investigate the problem of middle class unemployment in Mysore. Again at the Economic Conference held in the year following, Sir Mirza Ismail gave expression to the opinion that middle class unemployment was not the whole of the problem, though it happened at the time to be a specially urgent part of it. The most disturbing phenomenon in the country as circumstances stood at the time, said Sir Mirza, was undoubtedly the attitude of mind of the young men who were bitter and disappointed on account of economic despair and the only hope lay in turning more and more of the educated young men towards a vocational career, especially industrial and agricultural pursuits. Besides the Technological College which would be opened as a memorial of the Silver Jubilee of the Maharaja which was expected to afford some solution of the problem, it was also intended to establish an agricultural colony as an experiment under the Bhadra Canal. The Dewan concluded his speech in these words: "This problem of unemployment is a really difficult problem..... We cannot allow things to drift and we must make the utmost possible effort

to discover a remedy. It will not do to let our young men remain a prey to pessimism. We must fill their hearts—they are the future hope of the country—with that spirit of buoyant optimism without which life becomes merely a drab existence."

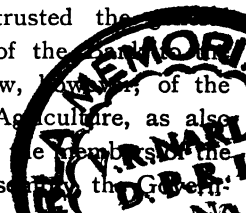
**The Economic position of the Agriculturists during this period.**

During this period there were great fluctuations in the economic position of the agriculturists. Between the years 1914-20 there was a gradual rise of prices from year to year and the pinnacle was reached in the year 1919-20 following the cessation of the Great War. Subsequent to 1920 the prices began to fall until 1923, when they rose again and kept steady until 1928. From this year they began to decline once again. The fall continued from year to year until 1932 when it was arrested and the prices showed a tendency to rise. The rise was however very temporary and the prices began to decline once again, until they reached the lowest level in June 1934. During the period of high prices following the conclusion of the war, the agriculturists found themselves able to increase their standard of life, but at the same time their debts also increased as the appreciation of land values tempted and enabled them to borrow more largely.

The Special Economic Survey officer for the Malnad appointed in 1925 having proposed legislation on the lines of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act of Bombay to afford similar relief to agricultural debtors, especially in the Malnad, a committee of officials and non-officials with Mr. K. Chandy, Member of the State Council as President, was appointed to consider the report of this special officer. The committee having recommended legislation being undertaken by Government on the lines of the Deccan Agriculturists' Relief Act for the relief of indebted agriculturists in the State, a note on the subject was placed before the Representative Assembly at the Budget Session of 1926 and a Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council in December of the same year and was finally passed into law in July 1928. This Regulation applied to agriculturists whose yearly income from agriculture did not exceed Rs. 500 and the aggregate income from all sources did not exceed Rs. 1000. Under

its provisions, immovable property which was not specifically mortgaged for debt was exempt from sale and in the case of all debts, secured as well as unsecured, courts could permit repayment in instalments extending normally up to eight years. This Regulation was at first made operative in the three Malnad taluks of Manjarabad, Sagar and Koppa and subsequently on the recommendation of the Malnad Economic Depression Enquiry Committee extended to all the Malnad taluks. Between the years 1929 and 1933 the prices of agricultural commodities fell by nearly 50 per cent and the gross money value realised by the agriculturist decreased to that extent. In this connection, it may be of interest to know what causes have, according to the "World Economic Survey, 1932-33, League of Nations," contributed to the great economic depression prevailing throughout the world. "There is general agreement that the causes of the decline of prices are many and complex. Important and far-reaching changes in the geographical and technical structure of industry and trade, equally important social developments such as a rising standard of living together with lessened flexibility of adjustment, political difficulties arising from reparation and war debt payments and tariff wars, monetary arrangements connected with the post-war currency stabilisations and the working of the new gold standard after it has been restored, international capital movements, security speculation and exchange difficulties—all entered into the background of the price fall. The exact degree to which these various factors entered into the combination of causes which precipitated the depression has been a subject of lively controversy."

In April 1928 the Government sanctioned the opening of a Central Land Mortgage Bank at Bangalore, its operations being confined to the Malnad taluks of Sagar, Koppa and Manjarabad and the Maidan taluk of Tumkur and first entrusted the supervision and control over the operations of the bank to the Director of Industries and Commerce. In view, however, of the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, as also in response to the general desire expressed by the members of the Legislative Council and the Representative Assembly, the Government



ment decided to bring the proposed Land Mortgage institution within the purview of the Co-operative Societies Regulation and the latter was suitably amended in 1929 to effect this purpose. The Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank commenced work in December 1929. Government sanctioned certain concessions to the Bank by way of guaranteeing the principal and interest of the debentures to be floated and of reimbursing the cost of its establishment for the first two years.

At the session of the Representative Assembly held in October 1933 a representation was made that the Agriculturists' Relief Act might be extended to all the taluks of the State. Government accordingly by a notification dated 30th December 1933 directed the extension of the Regulation to all parts of the State with effect from 1st January 1934. This extension of the Regulation proved in practice, however, as one not quite of unmixed good. Representations to this effect were made at the session of the Representative Assembly held in June 1934. It was said that the wholesale extension of the Regulation had adversely affected the honest money-lender and that it had also resulted in considerable shrinkage of agricultural credit. The question also formed the subject of discussion at the session of the Legislative Council which soon after followed.

The Government appointed a committee in July 1934 presided over by Mr. N. Madhava Rao to make a rapid enquiry into the extent to which the fall in the price of agricultural produce had affected the resources, debt obligations and credit facilities of the land-owning and cultivating classes in different parts of the State and to report upon the nature and extent of the assistance that might be given to relieve them from the difficulties caused by the depression. The committee after investigation arrived at certain conclusions and of the main conclusions, the first related to the effect of the depression on the different classes of ryots concerned with agriculture as their occupation. The fall in prices which began in 1931 did not, the committee said, affect all classes of ryots equally. The field labourers who constituted about a fifth of the agricultural



population were little worse off than before. Their wages in grain remained unchanged. Money wages too kept steady during the earlier years of the depression and where they showed a decline, the fall had been less in proportion than the fall in prices, so that the real wages of agricultural labour appeared scarcely to suffer. The tenant cultivators had no obligation to pay taxes. Their rents were generally paid in kind and even where money rents were in vogue, they were, except in the Malnad, generally in a position to dictate their own terms to their land-lords. The peasant proprietors formed the bulk of the agricultural population. They generally grew all the grain they required for their household and such small amounts as they required for payment of services, taxes or to meet other miscellaneous items were obtained by selling non-food crops or from the profits of subsidiary occupations. There were various occupations available in the vicinity of towns and cities such as selling milk, curds and vegetables, hiring of carts which formed an important source of income to the suburban ryot. But the peasant owners in the interior parts had no such advantages. The cultivation of non-food crops, the rearing of cattle, goats, sheep and silkworms and suchlike occupations on which they depended had ceased to be remunerative. It was believed that this class of agriculturist was more heavily in debt than either the tenant cultivator or the labourer who enjoyed comparatively little credit. The classes which were most hard hit by the depression were the land-holders who did not directly cultivate their lands or cultivated only a small portion of their holdings. The fall of prices did not affect also the growers of all the crops to the same extent. In the cultivation of some of the crops like ragi, jola, cotton and groundnut, the margin of net profit left to the cultivator was comparatively low.

The second main conclusion related to the increase of agricultural indebtedness. According to the calculations made by the Banking Enquiry Committees of Bombay and Madras, the average debt of the agriculturist in these provinces was Rs. 50 and Rs. 49 respectively per head. As the conditions in Mysore were not very different, the average debt of the agriculturist in Mysore at Rs. 50 per head was considered a fair assumption. On this

basis the agricultural debt in the State, taking the prevailing depressed prices, was calculated to amount to about Rs. 35 crores representing nearly 30 times the land revenue assessment of the agricultural lands. At this time, out of a total area of 87,85,173 acres of arable land, 81,48,898 acres or 92.8 per cent were under occupancy.

The principal recommendations made by this committee to reduce this appalling magnitude of debt were the expansion of Land Mortgage Banks in order to enable the agriculturists to convert their debts to long term loans which might be repaid out of current income and conciliation between debtors and creditors. The Government agreeing generally with these recommendations have started action in the directions required.

The Government also appointed in September 1934 another committee presided over by Rajasabhabhushana Mr. K. R. Srinivasa Iyengar, retired Member of Council, to examine how far the extension of the Agriculturists' Relief Regulation to the whole State had affected the credit of the agriculturists and to report in what respects, if any, the Regulation required to be amended and to submit also a draft Bill embodying the recommendations of the committee for any legislation that might be required.

## **CHAPTER XLIX.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Sanitation, Public Health and Rural Improvements— 1926—1936.**

At the Budget Session of the Representative Assembly in 1928 the Dewan made a clear enunciation of the sanitary policy of Government as far as it related to the rural parts. "The crying needs of the people, especially of those living in the rural parts who form the bulk of the population," he said, "have yet to be met and no administration worth the name can remain indifferent to those wants. The Government of Mysore cannot feel happy that they have discharged their duty to the people unless successful efforts are made to secure to every village of any size in the State all those things which are essential to their well-being. There should be no village of any importance in the State which does not possess a drinking-water well without drying up when water is most needed, a tank in good repair not silted up with the sluice neglected, a satisfactory school with at least one competent teacher, a well-managed co-operative society and a dispensary with sufficient stock of medicines." Rural uplift, according to the words of the Dewan used in 1929, was one of the Government's most urgent, as it was one of their most sacred, duties.

Boreholes provided an effective way of dealing with the problem of drinking-water supply, the cost being much less than that of an ordinary well. Power drilling outfits as good as any that were imported began to be made in Government workshops and supplied for the purpose needed. A small establishment was attached to the Sanitary Department for rendering assistance to the Local Bodies in town-planning and for furnishing them with schemes for the improvement of sanitation, drainage and water-supply. The facilities offered by the Government were availed of by a large number of Municipalities. Extension of towns received the greatest attention, nor was the aesthetic side of town improvement lost sight of as could be judged from the number of parks opened

and the manner in which sites were allotted for public buildings. Provision of drinking-water wells for every village in the State was a matter of supreme importance and funds were allotted on a large scale for the purpose. In 1925-26 there were 58,000 drinking-water wells and 18,000 tube wells making a total of 76,000. In 1930-31 there were 1,00,000 of drinking-water wells and 1,14,000 tube wells making a total of 2,14,000. The largest water-supply project undertaken was the Thippagondanhalli Reservoir to provide water-supply to the growing town of Bangalore, the old Hesarghatta tank which supplied water from 1891 being found insufficient for a city with a growing population. In 1891 the combined population of the City and Civil and Military Station of Bangalore numbered 1,80,000 and in 1931 it stood at 3,06,470. The new reservoir solved the question of water-supply to Bangalore not only for the present generation but for many generations to come. The cost of the scheme amounted to Rs. 50½ lakhs and the whole length of 14 miles of cast iron pipes required for this was supplied by the Bhadravathi Iron Works. The general scheme of rural electrification made steady progress and in 1930 power was taken to Kolar, Tumkur and Malavalli towns and the lighting service was started in all of them as well as in twenty other places.

In 1933 there were 10,600 Village Panchayets in operation. The activities of some of these Panchayets included the supervision and management of village schools, village forests, tanks and topes, planting of avenue and fruit trees, purchasing of improved implements of agriculture and sugarcane mills and letting them on hire to the villagers and distribution of scientific manure. Weekly labour for communal purposes was also insisted upon by the Village Panchayets. There were also indications of the growth of a spirit of public service as evidenced from the liberal donations that were given for buildings, for schools, for hospitals and for other village purposes.

#### **Help by the Rockefeller Foundation of the U. S. A.**

Under the auspices of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation of America, a health survey of the State with special reference to malaria and hookworm was undertaken in 1927

and for this purpose the services of Dr. Sweet of the same Foundation were obtained. Four medical graduates of the State were deputed for training in sanitation to America. As a result of the spleen survey conducted by Dr. Sweet, three malaria experimental stations were established one at Nagenhalli in the Mysore taluk, the second at Mudigere and the third at Hiriya. A Rural Health Unit also was established at Mandya as an experimental measure for the purpose of determining the staff, equipment and budget necessary for organising eventually Health Units in all the taluks. The League of Nations Malaria Commission who visited the State in December 1929 at the invitation of the Durbar studied the malaria-control work at the experimental stations at Nagenhalli and Mudigere and the anti-malarial work in the Bangalore City and expressed their appreciation of the manner in which the problem was being studied. The Rockefeller Foundation lent in 1930 the services of Mr. J. J. Mieldazis, a Sanitary Engineer, in addition to the services of Dr. Sweet, the Consultant in Health. Under the advice of this expert, the Government introduced at this time a scheme for the further improvement of the Health Department. A Board of Health was also created to advise the Government. One of the main features of the scheme of reorganisation was the constitution of bureaux for carrying on the work of the department and seven such bureaux were constituted—(1) Bureau of administration (2) Bureau of Epidemiology and Communicable diseases (3) Laboratories (4) Vital Statistics (5) Health Education (6) Sanitary Engineering and (7) Rural Health. Mr. Victor Heiser of the International Health Board of New York visited the State in March 1931 and advantage was taken of his presence to discuss questions relating to the future development of the work of the department. He recommended the extension of the Rural Health Unit work and stressed the importance of health propaganda. The Mandya Health Unit in a period of a little over two years held 94 clinics and examined nearly 1400 children. It also did about 15,000 anti-cholera, 10,000 anti-plague inoculations and 1631 vaccinations against small-pox. A publicity section was formed in connection with the Bureau of Health Education and the Rockefeller Foundation offered a contribution of money for

two years for the furtherance of the work of this bureau. The operations of the Sanitary Engineering Bureau was extended by transferring to its control the execution and maintenance of all water-supply works except the works of Bangalore City. The bureau dealt with all the public health engineering problems, water-supply, drainage and town-planning. The Bureau of Health Education organised a large number of cinema shows on health subjects and over a lakh of persons witnessed them. Large numbers of posters and leaflets on plague, small-pox, soil pollution and bore-hole latrines were printed and distributed.

### **Medical Relief.**

The Durbar also realised that the medical relief that existed in the State was inadequate. In 1928 there were approximately 330 doctors in the State or one for every 18,000 of the population. Of these, only 40 were private medical practitioners, most of whom resided in the cities of Bangalore and Mysore. As the extension of medical relief through the agency of a Government staff was necessarily slow and costly, a scheme was introduced for subsidising private medical practitioners with a view to induce and enable them to settle down in rural parts. A cheaper kind of local fund dispensaries was also introduced under qualified doctors.

A noteworthy feature of this period was the generous contributions given by private persons for the extension of medical relief. This was a welcome tendency and among the donors of this period were Dharmaprakasa Mr. Chandre Gowda, Mr. Nagappa Setty and Pandit Lakshmanachar. The Ayurvedic and Unani hospitals received support from some of these donors. Towards the construction of the Ophthalmic Block in the Krishnarajendra Hospital at Mysore, a contribution was made by Mr. Chidambaram Chetty, son of the late Sir T. Mutthiah Chettiar. Mr. B. M. Srinivasaiah of the Hindu Soap Factory at Bangalore donated a large amount for the construction of an Electro-Therapy and Radiology Block in the Victoria Hospital.

The building of the old Maternity Hospital at Bangalore was satisfactory neither in its location nor in the accommodation it

afforded. A new building was therefore undertaken in 1930, the foundation-stone of which was laid by H. H. the Yuvaraja. Other hospitals constructed during this period were the Malle Gowda General Hospital and the Siddalinga Setty Eye Hospital at Chickmagalur. A new building for the hospital at Shimoga the foundation-stone of which was laid by H. H. the Maharaja was constructed and the hospital was named the McGann Hospital after the name of a former Head of the Medical Department who rendered good service to the State.

At the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly held in 1934 the Dewan specially called attention to the great need that existed for extending medical aid to women and children. He pointed out that deaths from plague, cholera and small-pox put together were less than one-third of the deaths of women in child-birth and of children in the first two years of their life. Many women for want of proper care were rendered invalids for life and many children for want of similar care in their early years were rendered defective in one way or another for the whole period of their existence. As far back as 1880 there was established in Mysore the Women's Hospital that bears the name of the Maharani Kempananjammani Avaru and in the closing years of her life was constructed the magnificent new hospital in Bangalore bearing her name and known as Vani Vilas Maternity Hospital. In 1923 her brother Sir M. Kantaraj Urs set the example of endowing an organisation for maternity and child welfare by leaving a sum of Rs. 1,20,000 to establish the Gunamba Child Welfare and Maternity Trust. This noble example was subsequently followed by other people also and the donations within the past ten years have amounted to over Rs. 9 lakhs. The Government have also played their part by extending the employment of midwives and by making special arrangements for such lady doctors as there were in the State to extend their activities by visiting places within reach from their headquarters. Maternity and Child Welfare work has also advanced and in the period between 1932-34 seven to eight thousand babies came under expert scrutiny of doctors during the Baby Week Shows. Mysore

was ranked in the second, first and third places respectively in the All-Empire Competition held in 1932, 1933 and 1934. In this respect the efforts of the Red Cross Society under the guidance of Sir Charles Todhunter, Private Secretary to the Maharaja, are specially noteworthy in combating the ignorance which is responsible for so much suffering and in establishing the Maternity Homes and Child Welfare Centres.

A Bill was introduced by Government in the Legislative Council to enable the public to know who were qualified medical practitioners and the same was passed into law in December 1931. In accordance with the provisions of this Regulation, a Medical Council was established for the State with powers to register duly qualified practitioners, to take notice of misconduct or unprofessional behaviour on the part of such practitioners and to ensure a high standard of instruction in medical schools and colleges whose degrees or diplomas were recognised. Another measure related to the licensing of shops for the sale of allopathic medicines in Municipal areas and to the employment of qualified persons for the dispensing of such medicines.



## **CHAPTER L.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Education—Local Self-Government—Chief Court designated High Court—The Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council—1926—1936.**

The Elementary Education Regulation was passed in the year 1929-30. Its main object was to invest Local Bodies with the management, control and financing of elementary education, while retaining effective powers of supervision, direction and ultimate control over educational policy and administration in the hands of the Education Department. It was a measure of far-reaching importance and the credit of bringing it out belonged to Dewan Bahadur Mr. K. Mathan, Member of the State Council. The Regulation came into force from 1st January 1931 and 12 educational authorities were constituted 8 for the districts, two for the cities of Bangalore and Mysore, 1 for the town of Tumkur and 1 for the Kolar Gold Field Sanitary Board area. School Boards were formed as required by the Regulation and the rules framed defining the powers and duties of the Boards. The District Educational Officers were appointed as School Board Officers under the Regulation.

As an experimental measure, Kanada was made the medium of instruction in one of the Government High Schools in each of the cities of Bangalore and Mysore.

The transfer of control over primary education to the local authorities took effect from 1st July 1931. The Mysore University Regulation was amended in 1933 so as to make the Senate more representative of popular interests.

Scouting continued to be popular. There were on the 30th June 1933 ten thousand six hundred and forty-eight boys getting scout training in all the branches. A contingent of four rovers and a scout were deputed to represent the Mysore Boy Scouts at the world rally at Godollo in Hungary. The Girl Guide Movement was reorganised in May 1932 and there were about 500 Girl Guides at this time.

The District Boards were re-constituted under the new District Board Regulation from 1st February 1927 and the Taluk Boards ceased to exist from that date. The Hassan and Kolar District Boards were given the right to elect their own Presidents and the Tumkur District Board the privilege of electing a Vice-President. Women were given the privilege of voting at elections and women members were nominated to some of these Boards. In the year 1928-29 the Municipal Regulation was amended removing the disqualification of women on the ground of sex from being members of Municipal Councils.

The District Boards extended their operations in directions not hitherto usual to them. The District Board of Chitaldrug started an orphanage in 1929 for providing a house for the board, lodging and training of orphans. The District Board of Kadur established at Chickmagalur a poor house for destitutes. The District Boards of Hassan and Kolar undertook to contribute a portion of the cost of maintenance of the high schools at Hole-Narsipur and Chintamani respectively.

In 1930 the District Board election rules were modified providing for a deposit to be made by every candidate seeking election which was liable to forfeiture in certain cases.

The term of the Malnad Improvement Committee constituted for a period of two years ended in August 1929. Each of the four District Boards of Shimoga, Kadur, Hassan and Mysore now came to have a Malnad Improvement Committee with the President of the Board as chairman and four members of the Board as members of the Committee, with the District Economic Superintendent as Secretary. The Committees possessed the power of co-opting other members for special purposes and were authorised to administer the annual grants allotted for approved schemes of Malnad improvement.

The Regulations relating to local self-government were further revised in 1932-33. The main features of the revision of the Municipal Regulation were the increase in the elected element in

## Municipal Councils and the introduction of adult suffrage in the Minor Municipalities.

In 1930 the designation of the Chief Court was changed to that of the High Court of Mysore.

The pension scheme was defective in that it provided no relief in cases where officials died before or soon after retirement. Government therefore sanctioned in 1929 a scheme of compassionate gratuities for the families of officers dying in harness or soon after retirement without enjoying the benefits of their pensions.

The second general election of members to the reformed Representative Assembly took place in 1926. Out of the 1,30,000 persons who were eligible as voters, more than 60,000 persons actually attended the polls. There were as many as 782 candidates who contested the 204 seats reserved for the rural and urban constituencies. The facts indicated that the membership of the Assembly was coming to be sought more and more as affording a valuable opportunity for public service.

A special committee was appointed in 1927 in re-pose to a resolution in the Legislative Council to revise the rules relating to the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council. As suggested by this committee, it was provided that an oath of allegiance to the Maharaja was to be taken by the members of the Legislative Council on their first entry. Another recommendation of this committee was also accepted, namely, the removal of sex disqualification so as to render women eligible for membership of the Representative Assembly and of the Legislative Council. In June 1930 for the first time some ladies took their seats as members at the Budget Session of the Representative Assembly and the Dewan on behalf of the whole Assembly offered them a warm welcome not only on account of their practical knowledge of many matters of which men were ignorant, not only because of their ready sympathy with all those who were suffering or in distress, but because it was essential to the welfare of Mysore as it was to that of India in general that the women should work hand-in-hand with

the men who could never reach the common goal without their aid. The other changes introduced were:—(1) the inclusion of pleaders as distinguished from the advocates in the Legal Interests constituency of the Representative Assembly and title-holders in the rural and urban constituencies of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council and registered graduates in the Mysore University constituency of the Legislative Council; (2) the obligation on the part of those seeking election to the Representative Assembly or the Legislative Council to make a deposit of a fixed sum of money unless exempted in special cases on the ground of being members of the Depressed Classes or candidates for a minority or special interest on penalty of forfeiting the deposits, if the candidates failed to secure at least one-eighth of the total number of valid votes counted; (3) adjudication of disputes relating to elections triable by District Judges instead of by Deputy Commissioners, subject further to an appeal to the Chief Court on points of law; and (4) permission to the members of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council to put questions and move resolutions in the respective bodies on matters relating to or affecting the provisions of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council Regulations.

The year 1931 was the year of the Golden Jubilee of the Representative Assembly which, as we know, came into existence in the year 1881. Sir M. N. Krishna Rao who was acting as Dewan at the time referred to the Assembly as the oldest political institution of elected representatives in India and also as having contributed in no small measure to the success and high standard of administration of the State.

In June 1932 a special committee was appointed to review the existing distribution of seats allowed to the Representative Assembly and to examine certain other questions referred to it. The committee on investigation proposed that the number of seats to be given to a taluk or sub-taluk should depend upon its population, weightage being given to the Malnad taluks and to the taluk of Molakalmuru on account of its remoteness. The committee also proposed some re-adjustment in the number of seats allotted

to special interests and recommended that the seats for women should be increased from 2 to 4. As regards the minorities, the committee recommended the increase of Muslim seats from 15 to 18 and those of the Depressed Classes from 6 to 10, the latter being contingent on suitable persons being available for nomination. Among other matters, the committee recommended that the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferrable vote should be introduced for the election of members from the Representative Assembly to the Legislative Council and for the election of Representative Assembly members from the city constituencies of Bangalore and Mysore. These recommendations were accepted by Government and brought into effect.

In the year 1934 a constitutional question of some delicacy arose. At the meeting of the Budget Session of the Legislative Council of that year, one of the members Mr. D. V. Gundappa wished to move the following resolutions and interpellations :

1. This Council recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore that they may be pleased to appoint a committee at an early date to frame and submit, after consulting public opinion, a comprehensive scheme of constitutional reforms with a view to expedite progress in the direction of Responsible Government.
2. This Council recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore that they may be pleased to appoint a Standing Committee to consider all questions pertaining to the entry of Mysore into an All-India Federation and to make suggestions thereupon to Government from time to time.

The interpellations were :

1. Will the Government be pleased to state: (a) What action they have so far taken to secure for the State and the citizens the utmost possible benefit of the abrogation of the Article 18 of the Mysore Treaty of 1913 announced by His Excellency the

Viceroy in December 1933; and (b) what action they propose to take hereafter towards that end?

2. Will the Government be pleased to State: (a) whether they were consulted by the Government of India or by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India as to the necessity for the legislative measure called the Indian States Protection Act passed by the Indian Legislative Assembly in April 1934; (b) and if consulted, what opinion they were pleased to give in reply; and (c) whether the Government of Mysore have at any time expressed a desire for such a measure of protection?

3. (a) Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the agreement between the State and the Government of India as regards the adjustment of the surplus revenues of the Assigned Tract of Bangalore? (b) Will the Government be pleased to state how this agreement will be affected by the terms of the proposed retrocession of the said Assigned Tract to the State of Mysore?

These questions were, however, disallowed by the President of the Legislative Council who was also the Dewan of the State. Mr. Gundappa being dissatisfied with the ruling of the President, thereupon wrote an article in the "Hindu" newspaper of Madras of 23rd June 1934, discussing whether it was permissible for a member of the Legislative Council to give publicity to matters not admitted into the agenda by the President of the House. Where the President was a person, said Mr. Gundappa in his article, who might represent all sections of the House and who might fairly be taken to give due consideration to every school of thought present in the House, it was proper that the decision should be accepted as binding every member not only in relation to his conduct on the floor of the House but in relation to all his proceedings outside the House also on matters which he sought to place before the House. The supreme maxim, according to Mr. Gundappa, in this as in other matters was that the highest and the largest public interest should prevail, and when the discretion was vested in the President, the presumption was that his decisions, welcome or

unwelcome to individual members, were actuated by considerations of nothing less than the highest and the largest public interest. The President's authority was in such matters final, because the President might be presumed to have taken into consideration all conceivable points of view and after deliberation to have upheld in the end that which appeared to him as best in the interests of the public. This general principle was, however, open to modification where the President was not one who could be presumed to represent all sections of the House and was one who might reasonably be presumed to be identified with one point of view more than with other possible viewpoints. The President of the Mysore Legislative Council was not a member elected by the vote of the House and that therefore was not entitled to be regarded as the representative of the entire House in relation to those matters on which there was any sharp cleavage of opinion in the House. He was, besides, the head of the executive administration of the State. Holding this view, the member felt that he had liberty to give publicity to the resolutions and interpellations which he wished to bring forward in the House.

It need not be said that the conventions and principles referred to by Mr. Gundappa can have their full application only in countries which have full political independence. But in British India or in the Native States, they have obvious limitations as matters stand at present. On the concluding day of the Birthday Session of the Representative Assembly in June 1934, Sir Mirza Ismail referred to this subject and had apparently these limitations in mind when he said :—"Improve by all means what you have got when any improvement is needed, but attempt no radical changes. Let us, like practical men, check our ideals by actualities. There lies our success and happiness."

## **CHAPTER LI.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Various Administrative Improvements—1926—1936.**

**Two important Legislative Measures : Workmen's Compensation Regulation and Regulation to amend the Hindu Law as to the Rights of Women and in certain other respects.**

##### **Workmen's Compensation Regulation.**

In the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly of 1927 the principles of a measure framed in the interests of workmen known as the Workmen's Compensation Bill were explained. The development of industries in the State in recent years led to the use of machinery on a growing scale and to the employment in mills, factories and other industrial concerns of a large number of workmen who were exposed to risks of accidents resulting in injury and sometimes in death. It was equitable that the employers should grant compensation to their employees so injured or to the families and dependants of such as happened to be killed by accidents during the course of their employment. The general principles of the Bill were accepted by a unanimous vote by the Assembly. Its benefit to the work people will be understood when it is stated that in the year 1931-32 the compensation paid amounted to nearly Rs. 94,000. The sum paid to the dependants of the deceased workmen amounted to Rs. 87,295. The number of cases of injuries by accidents that came up before the Commissioner was 314. Of these, 136 related to fatal accidents, 54 to non-fatal accidents and 108 to the registration of the memoranda of agreements. Out of the total number of claims for compensation, the Mining industry accounted for 269, textile industries for 36 and the several Government Departments for 9.

##### **Amendment of Hindu Law.**

The question of improving the position assigned to women under the Hindu Law as administered by the courts in the State had been frequently pressed upon the attention of the Government



and a resolution was also moved at the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly in 1928 recommending legislation on the subject. The sense of the Assembly on this motion was that before legislation was undertaken, it was desirable that the question should be examined by a non-official committee. This proposal commended itself to the Government and a committee consisting of ten non-official gentlemen with Dewan Bahadur Mr. K. S. Chandrasekhara Iyer, retired Chief Justice of the Chief Court of Mysore as chairman, was appointed in June 1929. One of the members was a lady, Srimathi K. D. Rukminiamma. The terms of reference to the committee were:—(1) to examine in all its aspects the question of improving the position of women under the Hindu Law, inclusive of any other incidental points that might arise in connection with and also with reference to recent legislation in British India in the same direction; (2) to submit a report to Government indicating in what respects the Hindu Law as administered at the time stood in need of reform; and (3) to prepare a draft Bill embodying the recommendations of the committee in the matter. This committee held a number of sittings to discuss the subject and also circulated a questionnaire.

A large number of replies to the questionnaire was received and the committee bore testimony in their report to the breadth of view, the comparative freedom from prejudice and the sincere desire for progress evinced by the greater number of those who individually and collectively favoured the committee with their views. At a latter stage of the committee's work when the materials available were digested and it became possible to put the tentative conclusions reached into a form adapted for legislative action, a number of distinguished lawyers and judges in different parts of India were approached for advice and suggestions. The committee submitted their report to Government in September 1930 after an elaborate and arduous examination of all the materials available.

The committee expressed the opinion that the State of Mysore had not to encounter the same difficulties as the British Government had to face. The reasons behind the policy of

non-interference with the personal laws of the Hindus did not apply with the same force to a Hindu State like Mysore as they did in British India. There were many factors operating in British India but not to the same extent in Mysore which impeded the undertaking of such legislation, such as the policy of religious non-interference, the marked diversities in conditions, languages, laws and customs of the people inhabiting the large number of British Provinces which on account of their extent formed as it were a sub-continent by themselves. There were also several schools of Hindu Law in British India and the principles applied by one school often materially differed from or conflicted with those of another, and it was therefore practically impossible to enact a uniform and comprehensive code applicable to all Hindus alike in British India. On the other hand, in the Mysore State the large majority of the Hindus practically formed a compact group and were governed by one uniform law, namely, the Mitakshara system. Mysore in the past had taken the lead in the eradication of evil social customs like infant marriage and the employment of Devadasis in temples and religious institutions. It had also gone very far on the way in recent years towards enfranchising women for citizenship by the recognition of their eligibility to serve on District and Municipal Boards, the Senate of the University, the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council of the State. The committee also framed a draft Bill amending the Hindu Law in all those points where they considered necessary and named it 'A Bill to amend the Hindu Law as to the rights of Women.' The Bill consisted of five parts:—(1) Inheritance (2) Separate Property and Adoption (3) Women's full Estate (4) Women's Limited Estate and (5) Maintenance.

On the 4th June 1931 at the Budget Session of the Representative Assembly the general principles of this Bill were, on behalf of Government, explained by the Law Secretary, Dewan Bahadur Mr. P. Mahadeviah, to the members. There were two schools of thought, said the Law Secretary, one the orthodox school which maintained that the law propounded by Manu in times out of memory stood for all time and

required no change. There was also another school which contended that the law laid down by ancient Rishis thousands of years ago would not suit the altered conditions of society and that it also required to be brought up-to-date so as to suit modern requirements. The views of both these schools were carefully weighed in the balance by the committee and their report, further said the Law Secretary, explained at great length the reasons for the modifications suggested by them. The one important departure which the committee had sought to make in the law was with reference to the recognition of the claims of women for inheritance. The women had proved equal to men in the matter of education and in other fields of life also had shown themselves fit to be entrusted with responsibilities and it was no longer possible to confine their activities to mere household duties. The committee had taken full note of these changing conditions and the changes contained in their draft Bill fully indicated this spirit. The main objection from the point of view of orthodoxy, *viz.*, the recognition of the rights of women to property, was based on the suspicion that it would affect their morals. The committee rightly characterised this view as a coarse and incorrect appreciation of the tendencies and inclinations of the women-folk. The Bill also proposed to give to widows right of adoption in particular circumstances. Following the ruling of the Bombay High Court which was subsequently upheld by the Privy Council, the Mysore Committee gave to the widow the right of adoption unless she had been specifically prohibited by her husband in writing to make an adoption. Similarly they recognised the right of an unmarried daughter to a fourth share of the family property.

The general principles of the Bill were that no women were to be excluded from inheritance on the ground of their sex or on the ground of the absence of textual authority. Their right of heirship and their place in the order of succession were to be governed by the recognised canons of heirship, namely, consanguinity and propinquity. Property acquired by a member of a joint family by his self-exertions was *prima facie* to be regarded as separate property in which female heirs were to have a heritable right.

The point was made clear in British India by the passing of the Hindu Gains of Learning Act. The right of a member of a joint family to bring about a separation of interests by a unilateral declaration of intention to divide was established by judicial decisions, but it was not sufficiently well-known. The fact had obviously a material bearing upon the rights of a coparcener's wife, daughters and other female relatives. The law on this point was therefore declared in clear terms in the Bill. The allotment of shares to female relatives was enjoined in the texts of law and was also in operation in certain parts of India. Although the practice as it existed in the past could not be restored in full, the Bill provided for the revival of the practice in the case of the widow, the mother, the unmarried daughter and the unmarried sister. In the matter of adoption, widows could only adopt if they were specially authorised by the husband or if they obtained the consent of the Sapindas after the husband's death, a consent which was naturally difficult to obtain. In the Presidency of Bombay, widows were presumed to have the authority to adopt except when there was an express prohibition. The Bill accordingly embodied this principle. Though, according to the Mitakshara, the term 'Stridhana' was meant to apply to property of every description belonging to a woman, the tendency of judicial decisions had been to exclude various items of property from its scope, particularly property acquired by inheritance. The result was the creation of what was acknowledged to be an anomalous estate known as the Hindu Widow's Estate, tending to the undue curtailment of women's rights as well as to the perpetual fostering of protracted and often speculative litigation. To avoid such contingencies, the Bill provided that estates inherited by a female from another female or from her husband or son or from a male relative connected by blood should be classed as Stridhana. As regards maintenance, the existing law presented some unsatisfactory features. While some female relatives were legally entitled to be maintained, there was only a moral obligation of maintenance in respect of certain others. The right of maintenance was often liable to be defeated by the collusion or improvidence of those on whom the legal obligation lay. The Bill therefore defined the cases in which the obligation of

maintenance was personal and those in which the obligation was dependent on the possession of property and also the circumstances entitling a wife to separate maintenance. It was further provided to treat the right to maintenance as a charge on property liable to meet it, with priority over subsequent alienations not made in good faith.

Among the members of the Assembly present were two lady members Srimathi Kamalamma Dasappa and Srimathi Sakamma. The first lady member in a speech she made expressed gratitude for the paternal care that the Government was taking in the matter of securing certain rights to the womanhood of the State. At the same time, she brought to the notice of the Assembly that the All-India Women's Conference had passed resolutions to the effect that the recommendations of the Chandrasekhara Iyer Committee did not go far enough and that women wanted equal rights with men in the matter of inheritance. But the committee had proposed that only one-fourth of the property should go to the unmarried daughter. With reference to a query from a member as to what special claim had been established by the women of Mysore for a better treatment in future, Srimathi Kamalamma Dasappa retorted by asking what particular achievements had entitled the men of Mysore to the superior position they were enjoying. She regretted that any section of the male population should take a narrow view of the matter, particularly at a time when every civilised country—eastern and western—was anxious to improve the position of women. Recent political developments in India had shown that woman was capable of the best services and the highest sacrifices no less than man. While men were fighting for their political rights in the shape of responsible Government, how could these self-same men deny women their legitimate claims in the matter of inheritance? If men were not prepared to extend these rights to women, how could they expect their own claims for better rights and privileges to be recognised by others? There was a mistaken notion in certain quarters that property was never safe in the hands of women. She asked whether there were not cases of property having been wasted by men. Under the Mahomedan law, women were allotted a share of their father's property and they had managed and enjoyed

it in the most frugal manner. Did all Mahomedan ladies mismanage their property? It should be remembered, she said, that after all, it was only their own sisters and daughters that were going to be helped by the proposed legislation. Childless widows would as heretofore spend their property on their own brothers' and sisters' children. The other lady member Srimathi Sakamma was equally effective in the part she took in the debate. When the general principles of the Bill were put to vote, they were accepted by a large majority, only four or five voting on the other side.

The Bill was next introduced in the Legislative Council and passed through the usual stages. Mr. S. P. Rajagopalachar, Member of the State Council who was in charge of the Bill, stated on the 19th December 1932 when the Bill had reached its final stage that the Select Committee which considered the Bill had not made any important changes and its report was practically unanimous. "I lay stress on the fact," said Mr. Rajagopalachar, "that it was found possible to produce an agreed report on such a controversial Bill for two reasons. It indicates, in the first place, that all aspects of the subject have been fully considered. Secondly, in matters of social legislation as in the Bill before us, it is better to carry the largest amount of informed public opinion with us. It is not meant, of course, that every shade of opinion or objection should be listened to, but it is essential that the broad outlines of the legislation should find general acceptance." At this stage a petition from the President, Mysore State Women's Conference, dated 13th December 1932, was placed before the Council asking for larger privileges and suggesting the postponement of the consideration of the Bill. The petition was read and recorded. The Bill with only a few modifications was ultimately passed by the Legislative Council and subsequently received the assent of His Highness the Maharaja. It came into force from 1st January 1934.

## **CHAPTER LII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Visit of Lord Willingdon to Mysore—Abrogation of the Article 18 of the Treaty of 1913—Death of the Maharani, late Regent.**

Lord Willingdon, the Governor-General, with Lady Willingdon visited the Mysore State in December 1933. Prior to this visit, he had visited Mysore on no less than five occasions when he was Governor of Madras and was therefore thoroughly well acquainted with the internal conditions and progress of the State. A State Banquet was given by the Maharaja on the 4th December and in proposing the health of his distinguished guest, His Highness referred to Lord Willingdon as being entitled to a warm welcome not only as the chief representative of the British Crown in India but also as an old and sincere friend of the State of Mysore. His Highness also referred to His Excellency's visit occurring at a time of much importance in the history of India, when all were looking forward to a great advance in the system of administration and meanwhile, were full of admiration for the success that had attended His Excellency's policy of firmness and conciliation. "There are no people in the world," continued His Highness, "who by nature and tradition are more peace-loving, contented and responsive than the people of India. There is no one who is more anxious to do all that is humanly possible for the furtherance of the well-being of the people committed to his charge than Your Excellency. Your utter sincerity, your earnest desire to do the best you can for the country you love regardless of all personal consequences are well recognised and deeply appreciated. And I feel sure that when the time comes for you to leave these shores, you will leave them amidst the applause of a grateful people and with the consciousness of having cemented those bonds of mutual esteem and interest which alone can hold your country and mine permanently together."

Lord Willingdon, in answering the toast after paying the usual compliments, proceeded to speak on political and other connected

matters.—“ Your Highness has remarked that my visit is made at a time of great importance in the history of India. Your Highness is also well aware that the goal which we have set before ourselves is not exactly approached by a road strewn with roses all the way. Nevertheless, the determination of His Majesty's Government and the Government of India to achieve that large advance to which Your Highness refers, remains and will remain unshaken. This great country has but recently passed through times as grave and fraught with anxiety as any in its long history,—times which are still not free from anxiety owing to the economic depression which still hangs over us. And although signs are not wanting that happier days are in sight, he would be a bold man who would prophesy that India is more than at the threshold of that period of peace which is so essential for her recovery and progress. But whatever troubles India may have had to face, she has had friends and supporters staunch and true, and none more constant in loyalty and devotion to the British Crown than Your Highness. The active co-operation of Your Highness' Government has been of material assistance to my Government and I am glad to have this opportunity of sincerely thanking Your Highness for the very real services which Mysore has rendered during the past troublous years.

“The record of progress of your State since my last visit eleven years ago is certainly remarkable. Those years have not been happy ones in the histories of the nations and they have closed in an economic crisis of the first magnitude. It was impossible that Mysore should escape altogether the worldwide depression. That she should have been able, despite it, to continue to develop her industries and provide for the welfare of her people in the way she has done must compel the admiration of all observers..... Of the varied and interesting programme that you have prepared for me, there is no item that I look forward to with greater anticipation than my visit to the Krishnarajasagara..... I have good reason to know that it was entirely the friendly co-operation shown by Your Highness and your Government with the neighbouring Presidency of Madras that secured the successful development of the Mettur Project which by impounding ninety-thousand million



cubic feet of water will, it is hoped, bring prosperity hitherto undreamed of to the ryots in that part of the Presidency of Madras. .... Your Highness has not failed to realise the necessity of providing facilities for rapid transport and there are, I am told, 450 miles of railway worked by the State. I can well appreciate Your Highness' anxiety to link by railway the southern portion of Mysore with the adjoining districts of the Madras Presidency, but as Your Highness knows well, there are certain difficulties in this connection which have so far prevented Your Highness from realising this long-cherished and most admirable ambition. But I trust that in the future when circumstances are more favourable, a means of surmounting these difficulties may be found. The industries of Mysore are so numerous that I can do no more than express my admiration for the energy and skill with which in the face of economic depression they have been and are still being developed. One such outstanding instance is the Sugar Factory now nearing completion at Mandya. It is my sincere hope that the labours of the Tariff Board which are even now engaging the serious attention of my Government will result in restoring prosperity to your silk and iron industries..... In 1923 Lord Reading referred to the charter which inaugurated great constitutional changes in your State. The confidence which Your Highness has reposed in your subjects has been more than justified by the passing of the years. The maintenance of that standard of administration which was handed over to your revered father in 1881 has been a matter of satisfaction to the successive Viceroys, and I am glad to be able to give signal proof of the recognition of this high standard by the British Government by announcing that in response to Your Highness' wishes the restrictions imposed by Article 18 of the Treaty of 1913 on legislation by Your Highness' Government have now been removed.

“Your Highness has referred to the remission of those portions of Mysore revenues that now form a contribution to the Imperial Exchequer. It will be remembered that the Davidson Committee who visited your State in February 1932 have recommended that all such contributions should as soon as possible be abolished. A

reference to those recommendations will be found in paragraph 61 of the Introduction to the White Paper. The question is, in fact, among those which are now engaging the attention of His Majesty's Government and I can assure Your Highness that my Government will not cease to give the matter its earnest and sympathetic consideration. As Your Highness is aware, the position is complicated by the economic depression which has affected the rest of India no less than Mysore. I can only express the hope that before long the general financial situation will materially improve and that Your Highness may be relieved of your anxieties over this matter.

“The question of the retrocession of a portion of the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore to which Your Highness has referred is under examination by the officers of my Government, and I hope that by patience and goodwill it may be settled to the satisfaction alike of my Government and of Your Highness.

“Federation is a word that is on everybody's lips to-day. That it will come I am confident, that it will come and I look to see Mysore play a leading part in the destinies of the new India—a part she is well qualified to play by her traditions and her long and distinguished history, no less than by her capacity for administration and by the fact that she has as her Ruler one of the most enlightened and broad-minded Princes in India.”

#### **Death of the Maharani, late Regent.**

This sad event occurred on the 8th July 1934 and there was a spontaneous outburst of grief throughout the State and even abroad. She was held in high esteem and affectionate reverence by all classes of people for her great devotion, both during the period of her Regency and ever afterwards, to every cause that was in the interests of the people. At the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly held on the 19th October 1934 the Dewan, Sir Mirza Ismail, referred to the demise of Her Highness in these words: “In addressing you this afternoon it is my sad duty, in the first place, to refer to the great loss which His Highness the Maharaja and the State have sustained in the death in July last of

His Highness' revered mother, Her Highness Sri Vani Vilas Sannidhana, who passed away before completing the allotted span of years. On the death of His late Highness at the early age of thirty-one, the responsibility for the guidance of the State during the minority of her son devolved upon Her Highness and she conducted the affairs of the State as Regent for nearly eight years with much success and to the great admiration of all. To the end of her life she took the keenest interest in all that concerned the welfare of Mysore, and especially of its women. Her Highness was distinguished, not by any desire to enter into public affairs, but by her kindliness, generosity and womanly sympathy with all classes, poor and rich,—and these qualities endeared her to all her people. I know I am voicing the sentiment of all Hon'ble Members in giving expression to our sense of the irreparable loss suffered by His Highness the Maharaja and his people and in conveying to Their Highnesses the Maharaja and the Yuvaraja the loyal and sincere condolences of this House." It need not be stated that the members of the Assembly all joined the Dewan in mourning for the loss of so notable a figure as the late Maharani-Regent.

The Sri Vani Vilas Hospital for Women and Children in Bangalore opened by His Highness the Maharaja in March 1935 and the Sri Vani Vilas Bridge across the Kapini opened by the Hon'ble Sir Frank Noyce in November 1935 form fitting additions to the many monuments already existing throughout the State perpetuating her honoured name.

## **CHAPTER LIII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Montagu-Chelmsford Reforms—Constitution of the Chamber of Princes—The Butler Commission and its Report.**

After the conclusion of the German War, the British Government decided to adopt a new policy in relation to British India and the Indian States. Edwin Montagu, Secretary of State for India, announced in the House of Commons on the 20th August 1917 that it was intended to increase the association of Indians in every branch of the administration and gradually to develop self-governing institutions for the progressive realisation of responsible Government in India as an integral part of the British Empire. A further announcement was also made that in order to have a free and informal exchange of opinions on the subject, the Secretary of State was himself visiting India.

Shortly after, Montagu arrived in India and a joint investigation by him and Lord Chelmsford the Viceroy was carried out by touring in all parts of the country and a joint report was submitted by them to Parliament. In 1919 a new Government of India Act was passed by Parliament.

Prior to 1919, there was no defined and authoritative distribution of business between the Central Government and the Governments of the British Indian Provinces. The Government of India was responsible for the whole country and necessarily kept certain classes of business in its own hands such as the Army, Relations with Asiatic countries and with most of the Indian States. It also controlled Currency and Exchange, Public Debts, Tariffs, Post Office, Telegraph and Railways. In certain spheres such as Education, Police, Land Revenue, Public Health, the Government of India shared responsibility with the Provincial Governments. The Central Government was prior to 1919, more or less, a closely compacted official machine and generally autocratic. The Parliamentary Act of 1919 introduced a demarca-

tion of business between the Central and Provincial Governments and entrusted to the latter full control over certain subjects comprised within their sphere of action. New Legislative Councils were set up in all the major Provinces on a unicameral and triennial basis, elected for the greater part on a general franchise from territorial constituencies. In these Councils the element of responsibility was restricted to certain specified subjects, thereby creating what was called a dyarchical form of Government designating some departments of Government as 'Transferred', while others were regarded as 'Reserved'. At the Centre a bi-cameral Legislature was set up in which the Upper and the Lower Houses, namely, the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly were each given a majority of elected members with powers as to legislation, finance and interpellation, but without the power to change the executive government which remained solely responsible to the Governor-General and through him to the Secretary of State and Parliament.

With regard to the Native States, the powers of the Government of India were obviously not so wide as those over the Provincial Governments. No doubt the British Crown was regarded as possessing general supremacy over the Native States on the ground that the security which the Ruling Princes enjoyed was due ultimately to the protecting power of the British Government. In Lord Reading's words, where imperial interests were concerned or the general welfare of the people of the State was seriously or grievously affected, the ultimate responsibility for taking remedial action rested with the Paramount Power.

The Princes were fully aware of their obligations to the Paramount Power. But their anxiety lay in other directions. They found that a body of political usage was gradually growing up based on the precedents and rulings of the Political Department of the Government of India which were often in conflict with their rights as secured to them by their treaties. The financial and economic relations between British India and the Indian States were vague and various fiscal burdens were also found indirectly thrown on the States without their having any

voice in the matter. Indeed, shortly after Montagu's pronouncement in the Parliament, Sir M. Visvesvaraya who was then Dewan of Mysore took occasion at the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly held in October of the same year to observe that the Native States had a direct interest in the reforms proposed for British India, the subjects of Indian States being affected quite as much as the people of British India, especially in questions connected with Currency, Fiscal and Commercial Autonomy, Salt duties, Emigration, Army, Navy and Foreign Affairs and he claimed on that score an effective voice for the States in the Councils of the Empire. \*

The Montagu-Chelmsford Report conceded, as a result of the enquiries made, the claim of the Indian States for a share in the deliberations of the Government of India in matters such as those referred to by the Dewan of Mysore. The Report also contained a recommendation for the creation of a Chamber of Princes as a permanent consultative body. Accordingly in 1920 a Chamber of this kind was inaugurated in which the leading Princes were made members in their own right, while the rest elected their representatives. The inauguration ceremony was performed by the Duke of Connaught in February 1921 and the Royal Proclamation then read formally marked the abandonment of the policy of isolation of the Princes from the Central Government of the country. It may be noted here that Lord Chelmsford had before the Act of 1919 was passed, adopted the policy of establishing direct relations with all the Indian States instead of several of them remaining under the political control of the Provincial Governments.

The Act of 1919, however, was regarded by several of the Princes as further adding to their anxiety and they desired to know whether in case a self-governing constitution was given to British India or for India as a whole, this new constitution was to have the conduct of the political relations which existed between them and the Government of India and what safeguards there would be for their sovereignty or in other words, whether the States would continue as before to deal with the Governor-General in Council

who was responsible to the Government in England or whether their relations were to be transferred to the executive government responsible to the Indian Legislature. The Government of India appreciating the point of view from which the Princes looked at the proposed reforms undertook a revision of the methods of carrying on political business with them, especially in relation to their treaty rights, and the same Government also started a codification of political practices as they existed both in the Government of India Secretariat as well as outside in consultation with the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes. A special committee was also appointed by the Secretary of State for India with Sir Harcourt Butler as chairman to report, firstly, upon the relationship between the Paramount Power and the Indian States with particular reference to the rights and obligations arising from treaties, engagements, sannads, usage or other causes, secondly, to enquire into the financial and economic relations existing between British India and the States and lastly, to make any recommendations that they deemed advisable or necessary for a more satisfactory adjustment of all such relations for the future.

This special committee first assembled at Delhi in the middle of January 1928 and held informal conferences and consultations with the Government of India and with the Indian Princes and their ministers. They also visited some of the larger and more important States including Mysore. The members of the committee sailed from Bombay for England and reached London in the early part of May. Several of the Princes also led by the Maharaja of Patiala, Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, visited England and presented their case before the special committee through Sir Leslie Scott whom they employed as their legal adviser. The Mysore State was not represented by any counsel but sent a separate reply of its own to the questionnaire issued by the committee, as also did Hyderabad and a number of other States. The representations of the counsel on behalf of the Princes in England sought to establish the defectiveness of the political machinery as it then existed on some main points. In the first place, it gave the States no share in the determination of policy

affecting their relations with the Paramount Power as well as in matters of mutual concern to them and to British India and in the next place, it provided no impartial method of arriving at decisions when differences arose between them and the British Government or when questions arose regarding the proper interpretation of their treaties.

The Butler Committee completed their report in 1929. They were of opinion that Paramountcy vested in the Crown and that it was difficult to devise a proper formula that would define its scope. Paramountcy must, they said, be paramount in the interests of the Princes themselves. This committee also recognised that the policy of discriminating protection adopted by the Government of India had raised the revenue from maritime customs from 5 to nearly 50 crores of rupees, thereby reducing the taxable capacity of the subjects of the States and created a situation in which the States were entitled for relief.



## **CHAPTER LIV.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **The Simon Commission.**

The dyarchic from of government established by the Parliamentary Act of 1919 did not tend to allay the political discontent that prevailed at the time in India ; on the other hand, the demand for a unified form of responsible government grew in volume from year to year. Section 84 A of the Parliamentary Act provided for the appointment of a Commission within a period of 10 years after the passing of the Act for the purpose of investigating how far further it was desirable to extend the degree of responsible government and to what extent there was growth of education and the development of responsible institutions in British India. Towards the close of 1927 the Government in England appointed a Commission the head of which was Sir John Simon. This Commission paid two visits to India, the first lasting from 3rd February 1928 to 31st March of the same year and the second from 11th October 1928 to 13th April 1929.

As this Statutory Commission approached the final stages of its work, it felt that without taking account of the Indian States into consideration, no satisfactory solution of the problem of the Indian constitution was possible. Sir John Simon, the chairman of the Commission, pointed out in a letter dated 16th October 1929 to the Prime Minister in England, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, that whatever might be the scheme which Parliament would ultimately approve for the future constitution and governance of British India, it was essential that the methods by which the future relationship between these two constituent parts of Greater India might be adjusted should be fully examined. Sir John Simon further said that it was clear that the Commission could not ignore the reactions of the presence of the States on the problem it was studying in British India, or the possible repercussions on the former of any recommendations it might make regarding the latter, and suggested that a conference of the representatives of both British India as

well as of Native States might be called to consider them before the final proposals of His Majesty's Government were submitted to Parliament. The Prime Minister on behalf of the British Government accepted this suggestion and indicated that after the Simon Report was received and considered in consultation with the Government of India, His Majesty's Government would hold a conference in London to which representatives of British India and of the Indian States would be invited to discuss with them all the problems relating to the future reforms.

Long before the appointment of the Simon Commission, Sir M. Visvesvaraya had urged, as we have seen, the claim of the Indian States for a voice in the Councils of the Central Government regarding the common concerns of India as a whole. In 1926 Sir Mirza Ismail when he met the Representative Assembly for the first time as Dewan at its Birthday Session was equally explicit. The question of the position of the Indian States formed, with other matters of common interest, the subject of discussion at an informal conference held at Bikaner in August 1926 at which the Dewan of Mysore also was present. At the Dasara Session of the Representative Assembly in the same year Sir Mirza Ismail made a very clear pronouncement on this subject which may be quoted:—"With the gradual development of self-government in India, the problem of the position of the Indian States enters upon a new phase and India's prosperity and progress depend in a large measure upon a right solution of this problem. In Mysore, we desire no voice in the internal affairs of British India and seek for ourselves complete autonomy in such affairs, subject to the suzerainty of the British Crown. Details of relationship will change with the changing times. Economically, however, no Indian State can stand in isolation. Economic union is becoming a world policy making for the mutual understanding of nations and their co-operation in all things. In this world-wide movement India is destined to play an important part and one of increasing responsibility and power. She cannot but develop the same policy within her borders, gradually breaking down both barriers and distinctions in economic matters. I believe that such

an effort will work more strongly towards political unity than the immediate planning of any political federation. For it will bring a living unity of purpose and action, out of which political unity will naturally and fitly arise." Again at the Birthday Session of the Assembly in June 1929, the Dewan acknowledged that the spirit of the times and the inexorable logic of events were tending inevitably to bring the two parts of India together both economically and politically. There was no doubt, he said, that the trend of events was towards a political federation, but that such a federation could only endure if it was based on the sure foundation of common ideals and mutual interests. While Mysore was quite prepared, he further said, to join any well-devised scheme of Federation which would ensure her share in the settlement of common questions, she could however well afford to wait upon events.

The Statutory Commission completed their report and presented it to His Majesty's Government in May 1930. Their recommendation mainly was that in the British Provinces the dyarchic system should be discarded and the work of government entrusted entirely to ministers, making however certain reservations in respect of law and order and suggesting certain safeguards also. As regards the federation of British India and the Indian States, the Commission agreed that the ultimate constitution of India must be federal. For it was only in a federal constitution that units differing so widely in constitution as the British Provinces and the States could be brought together while retaining their internal autonomy. A number of considerations weighed with the Commission in arriving at this conclusion. In the first place, there was, according to the Commission, an essential geographical unity in diversity in the Indian peninsula regarded as a whole. Next, there was a political unity also as policies entered upon in one sphere had their repercussions on the other. The political boundaries that separated the Indian States from British India were only imaginary lines and that popular movements on one side of these lines could not be prevented from spreading into the other. Thirdly, the economic forces were such that the States and British India must stand or fall together, as there was a serious possibility that unless provision

could be made for the reconciliation of divergent interests the number of tariff walls would be perpetuated in an area where fiscal unity was most desirable. Fourthly, there were the common needs for consideration of both the spheres, as there were few subjects which formed the field of activity of a Central Government in India which did not interest also the Indian States; for example, the Defence of India. Lastly, there was the increasing growth of a sense of unity among the people of India as a whole leading to an acuter sense of common nationhood. But the Commission regarded Federation as a distant goal and contented themselves by merely observing that the new constitution should provide an open door whereby when it seemed good to them, the Princes might enter on just and reasonable terms.

There was widespread criticism of the report in British India for its denial of responsibility in the Central Government. There was equal dissatisfaction in the States that no satisfactory solution had been found to remedy the disadvantages under which they were placed. While the Government of India made some effort to disarm the criticism in British India of irresponsibility in the Centre by an amplification in their despatch to the Secretary of State dated 20th September 1930 the plan contained in the Simon Report, they at the same time fully accepted the opinion of the Commission regarding an All-India Federation as only a distant ideal. The time had not yet come, they said, when the general body of Indian States would be prepared to take a step so far-reaching in its character as to enter into any formal federal relations with British India.

## **CHAPTER LV.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **Conference at Bangalore preliminary to the Round Table Conference.**

The visit of the Simon Commission, as has been already said, did not rouse much enthusiasm in India on account of the absence of any Indian representatives on that body. There was considerable distrust and suspicion regarding the objects of this Commission also. To revive confidence and as far as possible to dispel suspicion, Lord Irwin the Viceroy within a few days of his return to India after a visit to England on leave made a statement with the authority of the Government in England on the 31st October 1929 and the essential points of this statement were :—(1) the recognition that the natural goal of Indian political aspirations was the attainment of Dominion Status; (2) a promise that, after the Statutory Commission had reported, Indian political opinion would be consulted before any new Government of India Bill was placed before Parliament. On the 9th July 1930 the Viceroy addressed members of both Houses of the Indian Legislature and referring to the Round Table Conference proposed to be held in London stated that the conference would be free, irrespective of the Simon Report or of any other document, to approach its task in order to reach a solution that both England and India and all parties and interests in them could honourably accept, and any such agreement at which the conference was able to arrive would form the basis of the proposals which His Majesty's Government would later submit to Parliament.

It was arranged that the first Round Table Conference should meet in London on 12th November 1930. The conference was to consist of 16 British delegates representing all political parties in Parliament, 15 delegates from the Indian States and 51 from British India. Among the delegates from the Indian States were 10 Ruling Princes—the Maharajas of Alwar, Baroda, Bikaner, Jammu and Kashmir, Nawangar, Patiala and Rewa, Rana of

Dholpur, Nawab of Bhopal, the Chief of Sangli and six ministers from Native States among whom was Sir Mirza Ismail, Dewan of Mysore. Among the 57 British Indian delegates from all parts of the country there were two ladies, namely, Mrs. Subbaroyan from Madras and Begum Shah Nawaz from the Punjab. Sir Mirza Ismail represented not only the State of Mysore but also the States of Travancore, Cochin and Pudukota.

On the invitations from the Viceroy reaching the delegates who were to represent India, Sir Mirza Ismail issued invitations to a number of important persons to meet at Bangalore to consider the subjects which were likely to be discussed in London. The conference met at the new Legislative Council Chamber in the public offices and lasted for two days on the 19th and 20th August 1930. There were present at the conference H. H. the young Maharaja of Travancore, the Raja of Sandur, Dewan Bahadur Sir T. Raghavaia (Pudukota), Mr. A. C. Dutt, I.C.S., Dewan of Travancore and Mr. T. S. Narayana Iyer, Dewan of Cochin, from outside the State and a large number of representative persons from inside the State which included members of the Representative Assembly and members of the Legislative Council, publicists of note, Sir K. P. Puttanna Chetty, Sir Charles Todhunter, Private Secretary to the Maharaja of Mysore, and Dewan Bahadur P. Raghavendra Rao, ex-Member of the State Council. Sir Mirza Ismail who presided at the meeting explained that they had assembled for the purpose of taking counsel together regarding the attitude to be adopted and the proposals to be made at the Round Table Conference by the Indian States in general and the South Indian States in particular. Referring to the Simon Report which had been received with mistrust in India, Sir Mirza said that though there were many things in it with which he did not agree, yet it had to be admitted that it was a weighty production which it would be unwise to discuss in a hasty spirit of prejudice, nor was it fair and reasonable on the part of the Indians to expect the British Government to ignore a report which had been prepared by seven distinguished members of Parliament representing all parties and which was regarded by their countrymen as a great essay in

constitution-making worthy of the closest study and destined to rank as a State document of historic importance. Sir Mirza next referred to the three major problems which, in his opinion, India had to solve before she could hope to attain complete self-government—the problem of the British community, the Hindu-Muslim question and the problem of the States. Referring to the Indian States, he expressed that they were the custodians of the ancient learning and culture of India and that they were developing towards a form of constitutional monarchy, though it had to be acknowledged that some States were still far in the rear in constitutional progress. Referring to the proposal of the Simon Commission regarding the federation of India, Sir Mirza said that he differed from the Commission when they opined that the vision of a federal India was a distant ambition. On the other hand, it was quite possible, he said, that the march of events could be made more rapid by the immediate reorganisation of the Council of State on an All-India basis by enlarging it and including representatives from the Indian States. He was further in favour of the immediate establishment of a Supreme Court as the States had a special interest in the institution of a tribunal that should have powers to decide justiciable matters at issue between themselves and the Government of India and the Provinces, or even between the different States themselves. Another matter of importance to which Sir Mirza referred was the equitable adjustment of financial relations between the States and British India and the just appraisal of their claims.

When the informal conference concluded on the 20th August 1930 after eliciting the opinions of those present, Sir Mirza in winding up the proceedings said that there was general agreement as regards the necessity for a closer association of the States with British India for common purposes by entering an All-India legislature in the shape of the Council of State. There was also agreement that the States should have the fullest possible measure of autonomy in their internal affairs, though in practice the degree of autonomy depended largely on the system of administration in a State, and it was clear that the more constitutionally a State was

governed the less justification or likelihood there would be for intervention on the part of the Paramount Power in its domestic concerns. Another matter on which also there was general agreement was that so far as British India was concerned, it was desirable that an element of responsibility should be introduced at the Centre if the constitution was to work satisfactorily and to enjoy an adequate measure of confidence and support from the people. A constitution which provided full autonomy in the Provinces, responsibility at the Centre (subject to such transitional safeguards as might be unavoidable), and a closer association between British India and the States in matters of common concern would, Sir Mirza hoped, be the result of the Round Table Conference. As far as the delegates from the Indian States were concerned, he gave the assurance that they would appear before the British people, not so much only as representatives of the States, still less as representing any particular State, but as Indians desiring for their common Motherland a position of honour among the nations constituting the British Commonwealth, all united in allegiance to the Crown.

Sir Mirza Ismail sailed for London from Bombay on the 6th September 1930, Mr. M. N. Krishna Rao (afterwards Sir), First Member of the State Council, taking his place for the time being.



## **CHAPTER LVI.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **The First Round Table Conference.**

The first Indian Round Table Conference was inaugurated by His Majesty the King-Emperor, George V, in the Royal Gallery of the House of Lords on the 12th November 1930 and remained in session till January 19th 1931. In opening the conference and in offering a welcome to the members, His Majesty said:—  
“ ..... More than once has the sovereign summoned historic assemblies on the soil of India, but never before have British and Indian statesmen and Rulers of Indian States met, as you now meet, in one place and round one table, to discuss the future system of government for India and seek agreement for the guidance of my Parliament as to the foundations upon which it must stand. Nearly ten years ago, in a message to my Indian Legislature I dwelt upon the significance of its establishment in the constitutional progress of India. Ten years is but a brief span in the life of any nation, but this decade has witnessed, not only in India but throughout all the nations forming the British Commonwealth, a quickening and growth in ideals and aspirations of nationhood which defy the customary measurement of time. It should therefore be no matter of surprise to the men of this generation that, as was then contemplated, it should have become necessary to estimate and review the results of what was begun ten years ago and to make further provision for the future. Such a review has been lately carried out by the Statutory Commission appointed by me for the purpose and you will have before you the outcome of their labours, together with other contributions which have been or can be made to the solution of the great problem confronting you. No words of mine are needed to bring home to you the momentous character of the task to which you have set your hands. Each one of you will, with me, be profoundly conscious how much depends for the whole of the British Commonwealth on the issue of your consultations. This community of interest leads me to count it as of happy augury that there should be present to-day the representa-

tives of my Governments in all the sister-States of that Commonwealth..... I cannot doubt that the true foundation of self-government is in the fusion of divergent claims into mutual obligations and in their recognition and fulfilment. It is my hope that the future government of India based on this foundation will give expression to her honourable aspirations."

After the King left the Royal Gallery, on the proposal of the Maharaja of Patiala, the Prime Minister Mr. Ramsay Macdonald was appointed chairman of the Conference. Mr. Ramsay Macdonald said, among other things, that the association of the Princes for the first time in joint conclave with the representatives of the people of British India was symbolical of the gradual moulding together of India into one whole. Referring to the British Indian delegates, the Prime Minister said that though he was mindful of India's different communities, languages and interests, at the same time he was also aware of the quickening and unifying influences which had grown up irresistibly from her contact with Great Britain and also of the aspirations for a united India which were in the minds of her philosophers and rulers before the first English trader set foot on her shores. The simple fact that the Indians had come to their country to sit at one table with the set and sole purpose of India's advancement within the companionship of the Commonwealth was in itself an undeniable sign of progress towards that end and also an inspiring challenge to reach agreement.

With the appointment of a committee to advise the conference on the conduct of business, the session adjourned to the 17th November. On that day the conference met at St. James' Palace and there was a general discussion on the question whether the future constitution of India was to be on a federal or unitary basis. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru was the first speaker and in an able and lucid speech he stated that in his opinion a federal form of government for India was most acceptable. Sir Tej Bahadur further said that never before was India governed by agents and sub-agents as it was being done at present and even Mahomedans who came as invaders soon settled down in the country and became part and

parcel of the Indian social system. The system established by the British however was that of Parliamentary Sovereignty,—sovereignty exercised by some 600 and odd members of Parliament on behalf of a population of 45 millions over 320 millions of people living 6000 miles away from England. Ordinary members of Parliament had neither the necessary time, nor the necessary capacity, nor the necessary vision to understand the mind or feelings of India, and the Secretary of State, however distinguished he was, was one of those 600 men and necessarily had to depend upon the advice of men in the India Office. The Civil Servants might be entitled to considerable regard, but while they could be very good servants, at the same time they were very bad masters. Thus it came down to the sovereignty of half a dozen men in England and half a dozen men in India and that was how the theory of Parliamentary Sovereignty worked out. It was therefore natural for India to seek freedom within her own borders as an integral part of the British Commonwealth of Nations. What India wanted and was determined to achieve was a status of equality with the other members of the British Commonwealth—an equality which would give it a government not merely responsive to but responsible to the popular voice. It would not do for the British Government merely to offer Provincial Autonomy, unless it was coupled with a decided and clear change in the constitution of the Central Government made responsible to the legislature. At that stage it might no doubt well be asked—what was to be the relation of that responsible Central Government to the Provinces and to the States. This question gave rise to a further question whether the constitution was to be of a federal or of any other character. The Indian Princes were every inch as patriotic as any others and Sir Tej Bahadur's appeal to them was that their vision should not be confined only to that part of India which formed their territories, but that they should move forward with the vision of India as one whole, each part of which might be autonomous and might enjoy absolute independence within its own borders, regulated by proper relations with the rest. If there was agreement as regards responsibility in the Centre, it was inevitable that a federal form of government afforded the best

solution. The association of Indian States with British India was to be welcomed for three reasons:—1. The States would furnish a stabilising factor in the constitution 2. they would begin the process of unification at once and 3. they would furnish a practical experience in matters of defence which was wanting in British India. There might be difficulties in the way of the introduction of responsibility in the Central Government in connection with Law and Order, European interests, Commerce, Finance, Army and a few other subjects. But these difficulties were, however, to be faced and not regarded as insurmountable.

The next speaker was the Maharaja Sir Ganga Singhji of Bikaner who caused a dramatic surprise by declaring the adherence of the Princes in general to the scheme of Federation so enthusiastically urged by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. In connection with the inquiries of the Butler Committee, the attitude of several of the Princes in employing a counsel on their behalf to put forward their side of the case before the committee appeared, said the Maharaja, to have caused misgivings regarding the reforms, which however were as much desired in the Indian States as in British India. This clear pronouncement by the Bikaner Maharaja regarding Federation was acceptable both to the British Government as well as to the inhabitants of the States. His speech dispelled the illusion that the Indian Princes were speaking only for themselves and their dynastic interests and it became clear that they fully deserved the compliment paid to them by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru that the present-day Princes were Indians first and Princes afterwards. The Maharaja spoke on a variety of topics which need not all be referred to here. But a few extracts relating to the establishment of a Federal Government in India may be given here to understand the angle of vision of the Princes regarding Federation. "..... My own conviction is that if we are to build well and truly, we must recognise that associated with its geographical unity India is a land of some diversity. Our starting-point must be sought not in the dead hand of an impossible uniformity but in an associated diversity. For these reasons, the establishment of a unitary State with a sovereign Parliament sitting

at Delhi to which the whole people would look in small things as in large is to my mind impossible. There would be no room in such a constitution for the Indian States; moreover, such a Government would crack under its own imponderability..... We of the Indian States are willing to take our part in and make our contribution to the greater prosperity and contentment of India as a whole. I am convinced that we can best make that contribution through a Federal system of Government composed of the States and British India. These two partners are of different status. The Indian States are already sovereign and autonomous of right having the honour of being linked with the Crown by means of treaties 'of perpetual alliance and friendship' and unity of interests. British India derives whatever measure of authority it may possess by devolution. But it will not be beyond the wealth of experience available at this Table to devise a means of linking these differing units into a powerful Federal administration. As to the question whether if a Federal Government is devised for India the Princes and States will enter into association with it, the final answer must obviously depend on the structure of the Government indicated and on other points involved; such, for instance, as certain necessary safeguards—constitutional and fiscal—for the preservation of the rights and interests of the States and their subjects. Federalism is an elastic term; there are several forms of Federal Government. Conditions in India are unique. We have no historical precedents to guide us, and the position of the Indian States is absolutely without parallel. All these and many other grave questions of policy and of detail will have to be examined and defined and settled first in committee and in informal discussions. But, speaking broadly, the Princes and States realise that an All-India Federation is likely to prove the only satisfactory solution of India's problem..... A period of transition must necessarily intervene before the Federal Government is fully constituted and Federation cannot be achieved by coercion of the States in any form. The Indian Princes will only come into the Federation of their own free will and on terms which will secure the just rights of their States and subjects..... The arrangements between the Central and Provincial Governments in British

India are matters primarily outside the purview of the Indian States. If our co-operation is sought, it will, I am sure, be gladly and freely and honestly given. Our duty is to contribute so far as we can to the evolution of a system of government which will lead to the close and effective association of the Indian States with British India."

H. H. Sikander Khan, the Nawab of Bhopal, in speaking on the 20th November said:—"..... I note that both Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and other speakers recognise that nothing in a system of Federation connotes any interference with the internal affairs of the States, that their treaties with the Crown will remain unaltered unless and until modified by mutual consent, and that it is in matters of common concern hereafter to be defined by mutual agreement and in nothing else that Federation will be concerned. On that understanding only one feature has to be added to the picture that the Federation shall be equal on both sides and that there can be no question of the status of the States being in any way subordinate to that of the rest of India. On those conditions I entirely agree with the principle of Federation..... A free Indian State must mean the disappearance of that doctrine of Paramountcy which has been imported contrary to our treaties into the relations between the States and the Paramount Power and which has been so much in vogue in comparatively recent times..... That is one of the facts to be kept steadily in mind. On the other side of the case, we Princes have no apprehension as to how the processes at work in the rest of India where we must rely on democracy not being made a cloak for aggression will affect our peoples and we shall be content to leave it to our States to work out their own development. In this connection, seeing that communal troubles have bulked so largely in the news from India thus creating an impression that the country is the cockpit of warring sects and thus standing in the way of her aspirations, I wish to make it clear as the point has not been brought out hitherto that among the Princes no rift exists as between Muslims and Hindus and that in the Indian States communal tension has so rarely occurred that it can be said to be

practically non-existent. This fact brings me to a second point, namely, that there is nothing in our respective religions which should lead to such ill-will and that the reason why it has arisen in British India has been solely political. The various minority movements have exactly the same basis and equally the attitude of the politically-minded in India towards Great Britain which has demonstrated itself at times in ways which are frankly to be deplored is not, believe me, inspired by racial animosity but is solely political and as soon as the foundations of the constitution for a self-governing India are well and truly laid, these differences, we all believe, will automatically disappear. These are facts which I can state from personal knowledge and without risk of contradiction, because we Indian Princes are not isolated in our States but from our very position as rulers are bound to keep in touch with the course of events and the trend of thought in other parts of India. We know fully as well as the people of India represented by the delegates here present, and possibly more clearly than the British authorities, the amazing growth of the national feeling throughout India."

On 20th November 1930 Sir Mirza Ismail said:—"I only wish to say that in the opinion of the States which I am privileged to represent at this conference—Mysore, Travancore, Cochin and Pudukota—the time has come for a radical change in the present system of government in India. That is a change which seems equally necessary in the interests of both countries—not more necessary for India than it is for Great Britain,—Great Britain which is only less dear to us than our own Motherland. To my mind, the success of this conference will be judged mainly by this test—how far have we been able to bring England and India closer together in bonds of true friendship and unity. India wants to remain within the Empire as an equal partner with the rest. She has no desire to sever her connection with Great Britain. As my friend Mr. Jayakar said the other day, this cry of independence is only a cry of despair. I would attach no importance to it save as an indication of the intense desire felt by the people of India generally for greater opportunities of self-expression and self-development.

“There is, I believe, general agreement with the view, both in this conference and outside, that the future Government of India should be constructed on a Federal basis. What exactly is meant by the term ‘Federal’ in its application to the peculiar conditions of India will have to be discussed and determined in committee. That—I mean the constitution of the Central Government—is the fundamental issue before this conference.

“By agreeing to join an All-India Federation, the Ruling Princes have rendered incalculable service to their Motherland at this most critical juncture in her history. Their attitude has enormously facilitated the work of this conference and has made the whole political problem of India more easy of a satisfactory solution than it would have been otherwise. I am one of those who entertain no doubt whatever that the Princes will never have any reason to regret their decision and that they and their States will occupy an honoured and assured position in the future councils of their Motherland. India is a land of many creeds and many communities and diverse interests; but I believe that it is this very diversity that will go far to ensure the requisite stability in the democratic institutions that are proposed to be established in our country.

“Another matter upon which we—I mean the Indian section of the conference—are agreed is that a measure of responsibility should be introduced at the Centre if the constitution is to work satisfactorily and to enjoy an adequate measure of confidence and support from the people. Whatever may be the risks and the difficulties in taking such a step—and they are undoubtedly considerable—the British Government will, we all hope, come to the conclusion that a solution which does not satisfy the people at large is no solution at all. It can neither work smoothly nor endure for any length of time. A constitution which provides for full autonomy in the Provinces, responsibility at the Centre subject to such transitional safeguards as may be necessary and unavoidable, and a close association between British India and the States in matters of common concern—this, let us hope, may be the result of



our deliberations here, a result which, I venture to think, would satisfy all reasonable people in India.

"In conclusion, I should like to assure my fellow delegates from British India that we of the Indian States whole-heartedly join with them in their appeal to the British nation to set India on the road to self-government. I would, at the same time, venture to ask my countrymen to remember—I hope I shall not be misunderstood, for I think I speak nothing but the obvious truth—that that great journey cannot be accomplished successfully nor can those patriotic aspirations, ours as much as theirs, be fully realised except in company of their compatriots in the States and, may I also add, with the goodwill and co-operation of Great Britain."

On the 8th January 1931 at the meeting of the Federal Structure sub-committee Sir Mirza elaborated his views on the form of Federation. The question of responsibility at the Centre, he said, was really the crux of the whole problem of further constitutional reforms in India and was the vital issue before the conference. It was because the Simon Commission's Report failed to recommend responsibility at the Centre and it was because the Government of India Despatch, too, had not suggested it that India was so sullen and dissatisfied. Sir Mirza assumed that the future Government of India would be a body responsible to the Legislature in all matters excepting those relating to Defence and Foreign and Political Relations, with such temporary safeguards as might be absolutely necessary in the interest both of Great Britain and India. In his speech which comprehended a number of other subjects also, Sir Mirza touched upon the question of tributes or subsidies that some States paid. Sir Bhupendranath Mitra's suggestion that if the tributes were abolished the States should continue to furnish a fund for meeting expenditure connected with the maintenance of Political Agents and their establishments was opposed, Sir Mirza said, by the suggestion which brought these subsidies into existence. In the suggestion made by Sir Bhupendranath Mitra he not only brought to the light that the tributes were not instituted for the purpose of maintaining political establishments, but that they were only paid in return for

internal and external protection. In the future polity of India as the function of protection would devolve on the Government of the Federation of which the States would form an integral part, it was logically right that the tributes must disappear, their place being taken by contributions from the States based on grounds common to all Provinces and States. Lord Sankey who presided, on the conclusion of Sir Mirza's Speech, stated that any advice or any views coming from the Dewan of Mysore would receive the most careful consideration of all of them.

Towards the end of the meeting, the Prime Minister read a declaration which contained, among other matters, a clear enunciation of the policy of the British Government towards India. His Majesty's Government, he said, had taken note of the fact that the deliberations of the conference had proceeded on the basis accepted by all parties that the Central Government should be a Federation of All-India embracing both the Indian States and British India with a bi-cameral legislature. The precise form and structure of the new Federal Government was to be determined after further discussion with the Princes and representatives of British India. The range of subjects to be committed to it also required further discussion, because the Federal Government was to have authority only in such matters concerning the States as would be ceded by their Rulers in agreements made by them on entering into Federation. The connection of the States with the Federation was to remain subject to the basic principle that in regard to all matters not ceded by them to the Federation their relations would be with the Crown acting through the agency of the Viceroy. With a legislature constituted on a Federal basis, His Majesty's Government were prepared to recognise the principle of responsibility of the Executive to the Legislature.

On his return from London from the first Round Table Conference, Sir Mirza Ismail received an ovation from the people of Mysore. On the 1st June 1931 when he presided at the Birthday Session of the Representative Assembly at Mysore, he was accorded a warm welcome by all the members present and two of them Mr. H. C. Dasappa and Mr. Mahomed Imam gave expression to

the feelings of the House on the occasion. Mr. Dasappa said that the people of Mysore had been closely watching the discussions, deliberations and developments at the Round Table Conference and that they were pleased to find that their representative materially contributed to the success of the conference. The Dewan's bold assertion at the very outset that the Indian States would support the formation of a Federated India and equally his pleading for responsibility at the Centre should have gone a long way in dispelling any doubts which the British Indian delegates might have had about the attitude which the Indian States would take. The other member Mr. J. Mahomed Imam also joined Mr. Dasappa in supporting the welcome offered to the Dewan and said that in the selection of Sir Mirza Ismail as the representative of the South Indian States to the Round Table Conference they felt that the whole of Mysore was honoured.

## **CHAPTER LVII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **The Second and Third Round Table Conferences.**

The second Round Table Conference which took place after the formation of the National Government in Great Britain assembled in London on 7th September 1931 and remained in session till 1st December of the same year. A feature of this conference was that Mr. Gandhi attended it as the sole accredited representative of the Indian National Congress. Sir Mirza Ismail also was one of those who attended this conference.

In October 1931 Sir Mirza Ismail presented a note which contained some suggestions regarding the proposed reformed legislature for India. According to him, the two principal organs of Federated India were to be a popular House known as the Federal Assembly and an other House known as the Federal Council. The Federal Assembly was to consist of representatives chosen by direct and indirect election, preferably by both methods, the representation being more or less on a population basis, the proportion of members from the Native States being one-third of the total strength. The Federal Council was to be that organ of the Federal Government which was to uphold the federal character of the constitution and was to be composed of the delegates appointed by the Governments of the States and Provinces at their own discretion and exclusively with reference to their expert knowledge, and these representatives were to vote and act according to the instructions they received from their respective Governments. The Central Government was also to be represented in the Federal Council in order to safeguard the co-operation of the supreme federal authorities and to prevent the various elements in the Council from working on parallel lines or against one another. The Federal Council was to have a suspensory veto on laws passed by the Federal Assembly with which it did not agree, but such veto was to be exercised within a period fixed by the constitution in which case the Federal Assembly was to show a qualified majority of two-thirds or three-quarters as

may be specified. Besides the right of first considering Bills when introduced by the Federal Executive, the Federal Council was to share with the Assembly the right of introducing Bills, the members of both the bodies having the same right. The Federal Council was also to be in possession of certain powers of an advisory nature, such as the right of demanding information regarding current administrative matters or legislative measures to be introduced, matters relating to External Relations or nominations to higher posts. The merits claimed for his scheme by Sir Mirza Ismail in the main were the moderate size of the Council allowing it to transact business more quickly and economically than a larger body could, freedom on the part of the members from party influences to a large extent, and avoidance as far as possible of conflicts between the Governments of the units and the Central Executive. This scheme, in Sir Mirza's opinion, had also the merit of allowing such States as had no individual representation of sending delegates to address the Council on matters in which they were specially interested, without however any power to vote.

At the meeting of the Federal Structure Committee held on the 2nd November 1931, Sir Mirza Ismail at the desire of Lord Sankey the chairman added certain explanations in elucidation of the views he had expressed. The draft report of the Federal Structure Committee recognised, he said, the principle that the Upper Chamber in the main was to represent the federal units as such and spoke of its members as being in a special sense the representatives of the federal units. But it was obvious that it was only to the members from the Indian States that such a description could be correctly applied. The members from British India could not in the nature of things be regarded as the representatives of their provincial governments which might have changed or of their provincial legislatures which might have been dissolved after their election as members of the Upper Chamber. It was in that view, Sir Mirza said, that he urged the need for a second chamber composed exclusively of delegates selected by and representative of the governments of the Federation and of the units. One of the advantages of the scheme put forward by him was that it would, he

claimed, obviate the dissimilarity of methods between British India and the Indian States in regard to the selection of members for at least one of the Houses of the Federal Legislature. The experience of Australia went to show the vital importance of close co-operation and concerted action on the part of the Governments of the federated units in all matters in which the country as a whole was interested.

At the conclusion of the discussions of the second Round Table Conference, the Prime Minister assured the members that the declaration he made of the policy of His Majesty's Government at the end of the first Round Table Conference was endorsed by the National Government which had succeeded the Labour Government. The great idea of an All-India Federation, he said, still held the field and the principle of a responsible federal government subject to certain reservations and safeguards through a transition period remained unchanged. It was agreed that the Governors' Provinces of the future were to be responsibly governed units enjoying the greatest possible measure of freedom from outside interference and dictation in carrying out their own policies in their own sphere. Three committees were then appointed to investigate in India questions of franchise and constituencies, problems of federal finance, and specific problems arising in connection with the finances of certain individual States, which committees subsequently came to be commonly known as the Lothian, Percy and Davidson Committees after the names of their chairmen. Later, the Indian policy of the National Government was approved by an overwhelming majority in the House of Commons in a debate held on 3rd December 1931 and similarly by the House of Lords on the 10th of the same month.

When the second Round Table Conference dispersed, it was believed that no further discussion was needed, but at the meeting of the Indian Legislative Assembly held on 5th September 1932 the Viceroy announced that it had been decided to hold a further conference in London consisting of a small body of representatives of British India as well as of the Indian States about the middle of November following. This conference accordingly assembled in

London on the 17th November 1932 and lasted till the 24th December following. The conference consisted of 34 delegates from India and 12 members of the British House of Parliament. Among the Indian delegates 12 represented the Indian States.

With the information furnished by the three constitutional committees, the third conference was able to approach much more closely to details and thereby the Government in England were enabled to present their plans to the Parliament in a White Paper in a clearer manner than would have been otherwise possible. This White Paper was placed before Parliament on the 18th March 1933 and it was referred by the Parliament to the scrutiny and investigation of a Joint Select Committee of both Houses of Parliament consisting of 16 members of the House of Lords and 16 members of the House of Commons and was authorised to call into consultation representatives of the Indian States and of British India. Accordingly, 21 delegates from British India and 7 from the Indian States attended the deliberations of this committee. Sir Mirza Ismail was among this number and attended on behalf of the South Indian States.

## **CHAPTER LVIII.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **The proposals of the White Paper and their consideration by a Joint Parliamentary Committee.**

In the White Paper presented to Parliament the Government in England indicated their proposals with sufficient details for a new constitution for India mainly under three heads: (1) Provincial Autonomy (2) Federation (3) Responsibility at the Centre. These proposals were based on the assumption that there was to be a Federal form of Government with the Provinces of British India and the Indian States as members which necessitated the reconsideration of the Parliamentary Act of 1919 and the complete reconstruction of the Indian constitution established by that Act. Before proceeding further, certain peculiarities which existed regarding the Indian Federation may be noted. Federation elsewhere, as the White Paper said, resulted from a pact entered into by a number of political units each possessed of sovereignty or at least of autonomy and each agreeing to surrender to the new central organism which their pact created an identical range of powers and jurisdiction to be exercised by it on their behalf to the same extent for each one of them individually and for the Federation as a whole. In the Indian Continent however, British India was a unitary state the administrative control of which was centred in the Secretary of State in respect of all concerns which related to its government or revenues, and such powers as appertained to the Provincial Governments in India were derived through the Central Government by a species of delegation from this central authority and were exercised subject to its control. It followed that the Provinces had no original or independent powers or authority to surrender. The States, on the other hand, though they were under the suzerainty of the King-Emperor formed no part of His Majesty's dominions. Their contact with British India was maintained through the Governor-General who controlled the Political Department of the Government of India. Besides, the range of authority to be conferred upon the Federal Government



and the Legislature in relation to the States could only be determined by agreement with their Rulers, as they made it plain that they were not prepared to transfer to a Federal Government the same range of authority in their territories as was possible in the British Provinces. It therefore followed that the range of powers to be exercised by the Federal Government and the Legislature necessarily differed in relation to the two classes of units which were to compose the Federation. Accordingly it was proposed in the White Paper to set up a Federal Legislature consisting of elected representatives of British India and of the representatives of the Indian States appointed by their Rulers and a Federal Executive consisting of the Governor-General representing the Crown, aided and advised by a Council of Ministers responsible, subject to certain exceptions, to the legislature so composed and to endow these authorities with certain powers and functions in relation to British India and with such powers and functions in relation to the States as the State-members of the Federation formally accepted. Full liberty was reserved to the Crown to refuse to accept the accession of any State to the Federation, if it was sought on terms incompatible with the scheme of Federation to be embodied in the Constitution Act. After the Constitution Act was passed, the Indian States were to be allowed to join the Federation only after the Rulers of States representing not less than half their aggregate population and entitled to hold not less than half the number of seats to be allotted to the States in the Federal Upper Chamber executed Instruments of Accession. The Federation was to be brought into existence by means of a Royal Proclamation, but no such Proclamation was to be issued until the two Houses of Parliament presented an address to the Crown with a prayer for its promulgation.

The Federal Legislature was to be bicameral, the two Chambers possessing identical powers except that money Bills and votes of supply were to be initiated in the Lower Chamber and the range of functions of the Upper Chamber in relation to supply was to be less extensive than those of the Lower Chamber. The Lower Chamber or House of Assembly of the Federal Legislature was to consist of a maximum of 375 members, of whom 125 were to be

appointed by the Rulers of Indian States who were members of the Federation, the remaining 250 being representatives of British India. The Upper Chamber or the Council of State was to consist of a maximum of 260 members of whom 100 were to be appointed by the Rulers of the States-members of the Federation. The Governor-General was to be empowered to nominate not more than ten members (not officials), thus providing an opportunity of adding to the Chamber a small group of the type of elder statesmen.

Certain departments, namely, Defence, External Relations and Ecclesiastical Administration, were to be regarded as 'Reserved' and were to be administered solely by the Governor-General, but he was to secure co-ordination in consultation as far as possible with his counsellors and responsible ministers. The defence of India was to an increasing extent to be the concern of the Indian people and not of the British Government alone. The ministers were to have the constitutional right to tender advice to the Governor-General who was to be guided by that advice. The Governor-General was to have power independent of his ministers to dissolve, prorogue and summon the legislature, the power to assent to or to withhold assent from Bills or to reserve them for the signification of the King's pleasure, power to summon a joint session of both Houses of the Legislature in case of emergency.

The Governor-General's special responsibilities related to the prevention of grave menace to the peace or tranquillity of India or any part thereof; the safeguarding of the financial stability and the credit of the Federation; the safeguarding of the legitimate interests of the minorities; the securing to the members of the Public Services of any rights provided for them by the constitution and the safeguarding of their legitimate interests; the protection of the rights of any Indian State; the prevention of commercial discrimination; and any other matter which affected the administration of any other departments.

In a constitution created by the federation of a number of separate political units and providing for the distribution of powers between a Central Legislature and Executives of the federal units

on the other, a Federal Court was, in particular, needed to interpret authoritatively the Federal constitution itself. It was most convenient to entrust to a tribunal independent of Federal, Provincial and State Governments the ultimate decisions of questions concerning the respective spheres of these authorities. Such a tribunal was in any event required in order to prevent the conflict of decisions which might otherwise arise if the various High Courts and State Courts interpreted the constitution in different senses and made the law uncertain and ambiguous.

Regarding the inclusion in the Constitution Act of a series of declarations commonly described as a statement of 'fundamental rights' designed to secure either to the community in general or to specified sections of it rights or immunities to which importance was attached, His Majesty's Government though they saw serious objections to giving statutory expression to any large range of declarations of this character, yet were of opinion that certain provisions of that kind such, for instance, as the respect due to the personal liberty and rights of property and the eligibility of all for public office regardless of differences of caste or religion should appropriately find a place in the Constitution Act.

The Joint Parliamentary Select Committee held its first sitting on 12th April 1933 with the Marquis of Linlithgow, the present Viceroy of India, as chairman. The Indian delegates took their final leave of the committee on 16th November 1933. During this interval the committee examined a mass of very diverse evidence, oral and written, presented on forty-eight different days by over 120 witnesses—ex-Governors of Provinces, representatives of Service and Women's organisations, Communal and Commercial Delegations, retired officials and a number of other persons English as well as Indian and an ex-Cabinet Minister who all submitted themselves to extensive interrogation at the hands of the members of the committee and of the Indian delegates. The crowning event in this record investigation was the performance of Sir Samuel Hoare, the Secretary of State for India, who took the witness-box on no less than 19 separate occasions and explained, defended and elaborated the White Paper proposals for a total

period of over 75 hours, during which he answered more than 5000 questions. On 28th July the last occasion on which Sir Samuel Hoare appeared as a witness, remarkable tributes were paid to him by the Marquis of Salisbury and Mr. M. R. Jayakar for placing himself so unreservedly for examination at the hands of the committee. Mr. Jayakar said that considerable satisfaction must have been felt in India with the way in which the Secretary of State had acquitted himself.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee in drawing up its report took the report of the Statutory Commission as its starting-point in dealing with the proposals of the British Cabinet. As regards the federation of Indian States with the British Provinces, the Joint Committee agreed with the observation contained in the White Paper that the Indian States possessed sovereign rights of their own, while the British Provinces formed part and parcel of British India as a whole without any exclusive rights. The Joint Committee recognised that the unification of the country which could be achieved by an All-India Federation would confer added strength, stability and prosperity to the federating units as a whole. For want of such unification, several of the Ruling Princes though firm friends of British rule, had sometimes felt their friendship tried by the decisions of the Government of India running counter to what they believed to be the interests of their States and their peoples. Under a Federal Government the Indian Princes might be expected to give steadfast support to a strong Central Government and to become helpful collaborators in policies which they had sometimes in the past been inclined to criticise or even obstruct. Another argument in favour of a Federal form of Government was the economic condition of India as it existed. As the economic life of India developed, the formulation of suitable economic policies securing harmonious working for the whole of the country was being put to an ever increasing strain. For instance, any imposition of internal indirect taxation in British India involved with few exceptions the conclusion of agreements with a number of States for concurrent taxation within their frontiers, or in default of such agreement the establishment of some system of customs

duties. With certain exceptions, the States were themselves free to adopt internal customs arrangements of their own which could not but impede the flow of trade and even at the maritime ports situated in the States the administration of the tariffs was imperfectly co-ordinated with that of the British Indian ports. The tariff policies in which every part of India was interested were laid down by the Government of India and the British Indian Legislature in which no Indian State had a voice. Even where the Government of India had adequate powers to impose internal indirect taxation or to control economic development as in the cases of salt and opium, the use of those powers had caused much friction and had often left behind a sense of injustice. Moreover, as matters stood then, a common Company Law, a common Banking Law, a common body of legislation on Copy Right and Trade Marks, a common system of communications were alike impossible.

On these grounds the Parliamentary Committee expressed the opinion that an All-India Federation had solid advantages viewed from all sides. In acceding to the Federation however, the Indian States, the committee said, should be assured of a real voice in the determination of policies. The Princes had clearly expressed that they were willing to enter the Federation only on the condition that the Federal Government was responsible to the Legislature and not an irresponsible one. The Parliamentary Committee agreed with the proposal in the White Paper that when the Ruler of a State signified his intention to the Crown to join the Federation, he should be required to execute an Instrument of Accession and this instrument was to be regarded as enabling all matters accepted as Federal by him to be brought under the jurisdiction of the Federal authorities under the new constitution, but outside these limits the autonomy of the States and their relations with the Crown were not to be affected in any way. The Instrument of Accession was to be in all cases in the same form, though it might be recognised that the list of subjects accepted by the Rulers as Federal need not be identical in the case of every State. This list of subjects however was to differ as little as possible from one another and a Ruler who desired in his own case to except or to reserve subjects

in the standard list of Federal subjects ought to be invited to justify the exception or reservation of certain subjects by the existence of treaty rights or because he had long enjoyed special privileges.

Similarly no Royal Proclamation was to be issued until the Rulers of States representing not less than half the aggregate population of the States and entitled to not less than half the seats to be allotted to the Federal Upper Chamber signified their desire to accede to the Federation. The Parliamentary Committee also agreed that the Proclamation should be issued on the King being petitioned by both Houses of Parliament inasmuch as Parliament had a right to satisfy itself not only that the prescribed number of States had in fact signified their desire to accede, but also that the financial, economic and political conditions necessary for the successful establishment of the Federation upon a sound and stable basis had been fulfilled. In matters where the Crown possessed rights, authority and jurisdiction in Native States, including those rights which were comprehended under the name of Paramountcy which did not fall within the Federal sphere, there should be a legal differentiation of functions in the future in non-federal matters, the title of Viceroy being attached to the Governor-General on the understanding however that the offices of both the Viceroy and the Governor-General were to be held by one and the same person. Outside the Federal sphere, the States relations were to be exclusively with the Crown and the right to tender advice to the Crown in this regard was to lie with His Majesty's Government.

It was accepted by the Joint Committee that the representatives of the States were to be appointed by the Rulers concerned, the relative rank of the representatives in the Council of State depending on the dynastic salute and other factors and in the case of the House of Assembly, in the main, on the population. Where matters were of exclusively British Indian concern, the States representatives were not to be prohibited from exercising their own judgment in supporting a ministry with whose general policy they were fully in agreement, or from withholding their support to a ministry whose policy they disapproved. The Joint Committee

considered that the true solution of the problem lay not in a statutory prohibition but that the matter should be regulated by the common sense of both sides and by the growth of constitutional practice and usage. The Joint Committee further were of opinion that while every Act of the Federal Legislature regulating any subject which had been accepted by a State as a Federal subject would apply *proprio vigore* in that State, yet this jurisdiction of the Federal Legislature in the States would not be exclusive. Where however there was a conflict between a State law and a Federal law in any matter accepted by the State as Federal, the latter was to prevail. The Parliamentary Committee accepted that a Federal Court was an essential element in a Federal Constitution as it was at once the interpreter and the guardian of the constitution and a tribunal for the determination of disputes between the constituent units of the Federation.

The Select Committee completed their report in October and presented it to Parliament in the same month.

## **CHAPTER LIX.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

**The Government of India Act of 1935 as passed by Parliament—Sir Mirza Ismail, Lord Willingdon and Lord Linlithgow on its future working.**

On the basis of the White Paper and the report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on it, the British Government framed a Bill for the reform of the Indian Constitution. This Bill after a stormy passage through the two Houses of Parliament received the Royal Assent on the 2nd August 1935 replacing the Act of 1919 except the preamble. This Act has been made applicable to the whole of British India as well as to such of the Indian States as will accede to the Federation, but is not to apply to such areas as are specified. For the purposes of the Act, British India is to be composed of eleven Governors' Provinces, namely, Madras, Bombay, Bengal, United Provinces, the Punjab, Bihar, Central Provinces and Berar, Assam, North-West Frontier Province, Orissa and Sind and with the modifications which may be made by the Governor-General, the Chief Commissioners' Provinces of British Baluchistan, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwar, Coorg and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the area known as Panth Piploda. Burma and Aden are to be separated from India and to have no connection in the future with its Government. The Indian States are classed under seventeen divisions, some of the States being individually regarded as divisions, while others come in groups.

The Act prescribes certain conditions to be fulfilled prior to the introduction of the Federation. In the first place, no initiative is to be taken till such number of States come forward as can claim half the number of seats in the Council of State, containing also not less than half the total population of all the States put together. It is then open to the King on an address being presented by both Houses of Parliament to approve of the Federation being introduced. At the same time, every Ruler of a State wishing to join the



Federation is placed under an obligation to execute an Instrument of Accession containing a declaration that His Majesty the King, the Governor-General, the Federal Legislature, the Federal Court and any other Federal authority established for the purposes of the Federation can exercise in relation to his State such functions as the Act might vest in them and this declaration is to be binding on his heirs and successors also. The obligation also rests on the Ruler to give due effect within his State to the provisions of the Act so far as they may apply to his State. The Instrument of Accession is to specify the matters which the Ruler accepts as those with respect to which the Federal Legislature may make laws for his State and in respect to which the executive authority of the Federation may be exercised, while in the Governors' Provinces such executive authority extends to all matters with respect to which the legislature of the Province has power to make laws. It is open to the Ruler of a State to extend the Federal functions specified in his Instrument of Accession with the consent of His Majesty. When any amendments are made in the provisions of the Act by Parliament, these amendments unless accepted by the Ruler of a State are not to be construed as binding on him. After the expiry of a period of 20 years from the date of the establishment of the Federation, if any Ruler who has not joined the Federation expresses a wish to join it, he can only do so if his request is supported by an address to the Governor-General by both the Houses of the Federal Legislature. The Governor-General may with the consent of the Ruler of a Federated State entrust to the Ruler or to his officers functions in relation to the administration of any law of the Federal Legislature and may also by inspection or otherwise satisfy himself that the administration on any Federal law is carried out in accordance with the policy of the Federal Government. The executive authority of the Ruler of a Federated State is to continue to be exercisable in that State in Federal matters except to the extent limited by any Federal law under the terms of the Instrument of Accession. The Federal Legislature is not empowered to make laws for a Federated State otherwise than in accordance with the Instrument.

The Federal Legislature is to consist of His Majesty represented by the Governor-General and two Chambers to be known as the Council of State and the Federal Assembly respectively. The Council of State is to consist of 156 representatives of British India and not more than 104 representatives of the Indian States. The Federal Assembly is to be composed of 250 representatives of British India and not more than 125 representatives of the Indian States. The number allotted to the Mysore State which stands next to Hyderabad is 3 in the Council of State and 7 in the Federal Assembly. The Council of State is to be a permanent body not subject to dissolution, but as near as possible one-third of the members are to retire in every third year. Every Federal Assembly is to continue for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting unless dissolved earlier. The Council of State is to choose two of its members as President and Deputy President and similarly the Federal Assembly two of its members as Speaker and Deputy Speaker and the two bodies are also to have power to fill up vacancies as often as they occur. The Governor-General is given power, except where he is satisfied that a matter affected Federal interests or British subjects, to make rules in consultation with the President or the Speaker for prohibiting the discussion of or the asking of questions on any matter connected with any Indian State other than a matter with respect to which the Federal Legislature has jurisdiction to make laws for that State. Similarly the Governor-General possesses power for prohibiting the discussion of or the asking of questions on any matter in connection with the relations between the King or the Governor-General and any foreign State or Prince, or regarding the personal conduct of the Ruler of any Indian State or any member of the Ruling Family.

The executive authority of the Federation is to be exercised on behalf of the King by the Governor-General. Any powers connected with the exercise of the functions by the Crown in its relations with Indian States, if not exercised by the King, are to be exercised by his representative who is however to be the same person as the Governor-General acting in a dual capacity.

There is to be a Council of Ministers not exceeding ten in number to aid and advise the Governor-General in the exercise of his functions, except in matters where he has discretionary power. The Governor-General's ministers are to be chosen and summoned by him, to be sworn as members of the Council and to hold office during his pleasure. A minister who for any period of six consecutive months is not a member of either chamber of the Federal Legislature is to cease to be a minister at the expiration of that period.

There is to be a Federal Court with a Chief Justice and a number of puisane judges limited to six to start with. No person is qualified to be a judge of this court unless he has for at least five years been a judge of a High Court in British India or in a Federated State, or is a barrister or pleader of ten years standing including those in the Federated States. In the case of the Chief Justice however, he is to be a barrister or a pleader of 15 years standing. The Federal Court is to sit at Delhi and at such other place or places as the Chief Justice may fix with the approval of the Governor-General. The Federal Court is given exclusive jurisdiction in any dispute between any two or more of the following parties of the Federation—any of the Provinces or any of the Federated States when the dispute involves any question whether of law or fact on which the existence or the extent of a legal right depends, subject to certain limitations. An appeal lies to the Federal Court from any judgment or other order of a High Court in British India, if the latter certified that any substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Act or any Order-in-Council made under its authority is involved. An appeal also lies to the Federal Court from a High Court in a Federated State on the ground that a question of law has been wrongly decided being a question concerning the interpretation of the Act or of an Order-in-Council, or the extent of the legislative or executive authority vested in the Federation by virtue of the Instrument of Accession of that State, or has arisen under an agreement made in relation to the administration in that State of a law of the Federal Legislature. In these matters appeals lie to the King without the

leave of the Federal Court and in any other matter with such leave. Where the Federal Court in the exercise of its jurisdiction requires the aid of the civil or judicial authorities in a Federated State, a letter of request is to be sent to the Ruler of the State. The law declared by the Federal Court or by any judgment of the Privy Council is to be binding on all courts in Federated States also so far as they are applicable. A High Court in a Federated State is to be one which the King has declared to be so in communication with the Ruler of the State.

This Act of Parliament evoked bitter opposition in England and roused little enthusiasm in India, though it must be acknowledged that it marks a distinct advance both for British India as well as for the Indian States on the Act of 1919. With the larger electorate leading to wider political training and with extended ministerial responsibility, the new Act may be taken to concede a larger measure of self-government. As far as the Indian States are concerned, the Act may be considered to be a distinct gain to them as it secures to them a voice in the Central Government of India in the settlement of all concerns common to them and the British Provinces. At the meeting of the Representative Assembly at Mysore in June 1935 Sir Mirza Ismail expressed his opinion in favour of accepting the Act and of giving it a fair trial.

On the 16th September 1935 Lord Willingdon addressed a joint meeting of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State and took occasion to refer to the Government of India Act. He drew attention to two of the broad features of the new constitution. The Act for the first time would, he said, consolidate the whole of India, State and British, for purposes of common concern under a single Government; India for the first time would become after the Federation was introduced one great country. The second broad feature was that the Government of India under the new constitution would draw their authority by direct devolution from the Crown just as the Dominion Governments did. They would cease to be agents and would stand for as full political and juristic personalities exercising the functions of His Majesty.

On the 23rd September 1935 the Marquis of Linlithgow who has now succeeded Lord Willingdon as Viceroy, speaking at a luncheon at the International Grocers' Exhibition held in London said that though there were still men of weight and experience who regarded the changes to be introduced with doubt, if not fear, he did not entertain such doubts but, on the other hand, considered that the situation must be faced with resolution and without any backward glances.

## **CHAPTER LX.**

### **Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV.**

#### **The Mysore State and Federal India—Settlement of certain issues prior to its accession to the Federation.**

The preliminaries to be settled before the new India Act can fully take effect are numerous and complicated as not only the British Provinces have to be consulted before they can be placed on a basis of autonomy but also the Indian States. The next stage is that the Parliament should satisfy itself that the statutory provisions have all been properly complied with and then present an address to the King for the issue of the necessary proclamations. These introductory measures must necessarily take some time and it is only after all these formalities are fulfilled that the present anomalous relations existing between the Government of India and the Indian States can disappear.

The Mysore State has already in explicit language expressed its readiness to join the Federation. But at the same time, there are some obstacles in the way which the people of Mysore eagerly wish to be removed before Federation becomes materialised. It may be said that so far as Mysore is concerned, already a sort of Federation exists between it and the Government of India in external affairs, inter-State and Provincial trade, currency, public loans, post and telegraph, railways, labour questions, defence and public health. But the State is also under certain disabilities at present. It possesses no liberty to levy frontier or transit duties. So far back as 1864 the Commissioner of Mysore represented to the Government of India that if Mysore or any other Native State was required by the Paramount Power to surrender such duties, it should receive compensation for doing so from the British Government. But the levy of all import duties was brought to an end by a peremptory order of the Government of India without any compensation in return. When Cotton Excise duties were imposed in British India, there was a similar imposition in the Mysore State at the instance of the Government of India. When,

however, these duties were taken off, Mysore was not consulted and it was left in the invidious position of continuing the levy alone or of facing a serious deficiency in its budget. In the case of silk, the State is placed under a serious handicap. This industry gives employment to nearly 2 lakhs of families. The Mysore State is the largest producer of silk in India amounting nearly to 60 per cent of the total output. The industry is threatened with serious competition from China and Japan. In 1934 the Government of India passed a measure which afforded some protection to this industry against foreign competition. But Mysore had no voice in the matter, though it has the largest production.

Then again, the Indian Taxation Enquiry Committee found on a comparison of the figures for 1913-14 and 1924-25 that in the case of articles of direct consumption there had been an increase in the case of those consumed by the population of India as a whole from Rs. 430 lakhs to Rs. 1746 lakhs or by 307 per cent and in the case of articles mainly of luxury consumed by the richer classes, from Rs. 400 lakhs to Rs. 1416 lakhs or by 254 per cent. On a calculation being made of the burden of this tax on the Mysore State, it was found that in the case of the articles consumed by the poor man alone a new burden had been imposed of approximately Rs. 35 lakhs or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  times the burden imposed by the salt tax. Next, in the matter of Exchange, the Mysore State has a serious grievance. It receives part of the Royalties on gold, payments for electric power by the Gold Mining Companies, payments for sandalwood oil and one or two other items of revenue in sterling in London, and the raising of the exchange value of the rupee from one shilling and four pence to one shilling and six pence has caused to the State a loss of about 7 lakhs of Rupees a year. The salt tax is a tax imposed for Imperial purposes upon the State subjects and amounts to about Rs. 10 lakhs a year so far as the Mysore State is concerned. In the Mysore State the British Indian coinage is current, but it gets no share of the profits nor of the interest on the currency reserves. \*

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\* The profits on the coinage of silver, it may be stated, are not treated as revenue but are held as a special Gold Reserve Fund available for maintenance of exchange and they are invested in sterling securities in England,

Next taking the burden of the Subsidy. As Sir Mirza Ismail stated at the meeting of the Representative Assembly held in October 1932, the Davidson Committee while recognising the justice of the abolition of tributes as they were arbitrary and unequal in their incidence on particular States, made a halting recommendation that only that portion of the subsidy paid by a State which exceeded 5 per cent of its annual revenue should be immediately remitted and the remission of the balance might be spread over a period extending to twenty years. This recommendation weighed heavily on Mysore inasmuch as it was the one State which enjoyed no privileges or immunities worth mentioning as a compensation for its payment. It may be said, however, that the question of the abolition of the subsidy as far as Mysore is concerned is not so much a Federal issue as one of political equity. At present these tributes whatever might have been their origin have become archaic and a source of humiliation to the people of the States from whom they are levied.

On the 27th July 1933 at the meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, Sir Mirza Ismail drew the attention of the Secretary of State, Sir Samuel Hoare, to the opinions expressed by the Peel and Davidson Committees that there was no place for cash contributions of unequal incidence paid by certain States as such payments contravened the fundamental principle that contributions to Federal revenues should be on a uniform and equitable basis and asked whether a practice so wholly at variance with principle did not deserve immediate termination. The Secretary of State admitted the justice of Sir Mirza's contention but pleaded want of funds, though it constituted a terrible drain on the resources of the State and though the question had been coming up before the Government of India for nearly a century in one form or another.

The third subject in connection with the entry of Mysore into the Federation is the retrocession of what is known as the Assigned Tract of Bangalore. After the fall of Seringapatam in 1799, a certain number of British troops were maintained there. The place, however, proved unhealthy and thereupon the Madras Government which had the control of the Provincial army selected some lands



near the city of Bangalore for the purpose of locating the troops there and approached the Mysore Durbar for permission to occupy the lands. This was readily granted and on a large vacant ground near the village of Ulsoor some British troops were first settled in 1807. Later, some private dwelling-houses appeared on the fringe of the military lands. The Commanding Officer at the time asked the British Resident in Mysore to inform him as to the tenure, if any, by which individuals held private property adjacent to the Cantonment area. Thereupon the Madras Government wished to fix an imaginary boundary to the Cantonment by extending its limits as they stood then and proposed that the lands given were to be held under certain conditions. Negotiations were then carried on with the Maharaja through A. H. Cole the British Resident at the time. The Maharaja while readily consenting to the proposed conditions disagreed as to the need for any boundary being fixed to the military lands, observing that he was at all times ready to give such extent of land as was needed for the barracks, parades, houses for the accommodation of military officers and similar requirements, but that he could not assign more than was needed as it would mean a considerable loss of revenue to the Durbar. The Madras Government on the advice of the British Resident did not pursue the matter further.

From the preamble of the old title-deeds it is clear that lands for dwelling-houses within the Cantonment area were given by the Commanding Officer only with the approval and the authority of the Maharaja, thus recognising in an indisputable manner the Maharaja's sovereign rights over the military lands. The lands on which the present Civil Station stands were outside the limits and the Commanding Officer had little to do with them. They remained in the possession of the Mysore Government and were disposed of by the officers of that Government without any reference to the Commanding Officer. A civil population which had been attracted by the trade and other opportunities for public and private employment offered by the presence of the British troops began to settle on these lands in growing numbers. The administration of the two areas was not materially affected by the

presence of the British troops as both the military lands and the Civil Station remained under the authority of the State. The police arrangements for the Cantonment were the same as those of a standing camp, that is to say, the Commanding Officer had the power of punishing all persons belonging to the army but he had no authority over the civil population, this power being in the hands of the Foudar of the Bangalore Division and the Amildar of the Bangalore taluk. In 1811 the Madras Government moved the Durbar through the British Resident for the transfer of the entire civil and criminal jurisdiction over the bazaars and the Cantonment to their Commissariat Department. The Maharaja however was unwilling to make any change in the existing arrangement. But the Madras Government were anxious to secure the police jurisdiction and as a compromise, the Maharaja agreed to appoint a Commissariat officer under his own authority as the Superintendent of Police, Bangalore, and the first Superintendent so appointed was Captain Cubbon who later became the Commissioner of Mysore. To avoid delay in the enquiry and punishment of offences, Cubbon was authorised to dispose of all smaller offences committed within the Fort or Cantonment. But all great offences such as robberies of sums above 500 Pagodas were reported to the Foudar who referred the same to the Maharaja for instructions. The Commissariat officer so appointed was ex-officio head of the police over all persons belonging to the army and in all such cases he was under the control of the Commanding Officer, while his power over the non-military classes as Superintendent of Police was derived from the Maharaja. All cases civil and criminal beyond his jurisdiction were required by the Raja's Nirup or order of appointment to be referred to the Mysore authorities, to whom also appeals lay against his decisions. Both in the Cantonment and Civil Station all persons not belonging to the military were treated as subjects of the Mysore State paying their taxes to the Mysore Government and submitting their disputes both civil and criminal to the adjudication of the Mysore officers.

By 1830 the original Cantonment area had gathered importance and when the headquarters of the Mysore Government were

established at Bangalore in 1831, this importance obtained additional significance. When the authority of the Maharaja was vested in a Commissioner in 1831, the Madras Government attempted to take the Cantonment area under their own control by disposing of the lands without any reference to the conditions agreed upon in 1814. But the Government of India soon put an end to this action on the part of the Madras Government by the observation that the rights of the Maharaja had not been alienated and the fact that a Commissioner was in charge of Mysore did not confer any rights on the Madras Government to act in contravention of the terms of the agreement. Strict conformity with the conditions was enjoined and all grants of lands made in the area were ordered to be reported to the Maharaja as before.

Though the Government of India thus set the matter at rest for the time being, it was revived once again in 1858 in a more intensified form. The Madras Government now set up the plea that the Maharaja had transferred all his rights over the area to themselves and that the area had come to be considered as a purely military station from the time when the British troops began to be first stationed there in 1807. This plea elicited a vigorous protest from Sir Mark Cubbon on behalf of the Government of Mysore and he maintained that the terms of the agreement of 1814 and the wordings of the Maharaja's Nirup conclusively negated the claim of the Madras Government. Matters came to a head and both the Governments appealed to the Government of India. The Supreme Government upheld the contention of Sir Mark Cubbon and observed that Bangalore was not like an ordinary British Cantonment but only a military station in a foreign territory where houses were lawfully held under a peculiar tenure from the Raja's Government.

The above arrangements in their entirety remained in force till 1881, when the British Government obtained the entire tract from Chamaraja Wodeyar for the purposes of a British Cantonment under the ninth Article of the Instrument of Transfer and since then it came to be treated as an independent area under the direct control of the Government of India. The sovereignty right of the

Maharaja no doubt is recognised even now. So recently as 1923, Lord Reading the Governor-General who was a great jurist also, when he visited Bangalore in replying to an address presented by the Municipality of the Assigned Tract declared in these memorable words the status of the tract as he viewed it:—"Aspirations to share in the responsibility for the administration and for representation always command my respect. You must however remember that in your case your suggestion is hedged round with difficulties arising out of the history and special conditions of the Assigned Tract. This tract, you are aware, is not British India but is a portion of an Indian State assigned to the Government of India to be held and administered as a military station. The permanent status of the tract is that of an integral part of the Mysore State, though for a special reason the administration of this portion of State territory is carried on by a Resident responsible to the Government of India." Though the civil jurisdiction over the Cantonment was ceded by Chamaraja Wodeyar immediately after he assumed charge of the administration of the State on 25th March 1881, it was not until 1st April 1884 that the Government of India arranged for the full exercise of their jurisdiction over the assigned area.

After the Government of India vested the civil jurisdiction in the Cantonment area in the hands of the British Resident with the powers of a Local Government, complicated questions arose regarding the claim to the surplus revenue that accrued in this tract. Under the Instrument of Transfer, the burden was cast on the Durbar of carrying out in the lands adjoining the British Cantonment all sanitary measures as were considered necessary; similarly, the Durbar was expected to facilitate the supply of provisions and other articles needed for the troops and to exempt from duties and taxes all goods imported or purchased for that purpose. Though these obligations rested on the Durbar, it was not till 1913 that the Mysore Government was able to obtain an explicit declaration when Lord Hardinge was Viceroy that the surplus revenue belonged to the Maharaja's Government.

The growth of political consciousness among the people of Mysore has revealed to them that the situation as it stands at

present is greatly disadvantageous to them. The present area of the Assigned Tract is  $13\frac{1}{2}$  square miles containing a group of 15 villages, three times as much as the areas occupied by the cantonments at Secunderabad in the Nizam's State or that of Mhow in the Indore State. The population of the City and the Assigned Tract together combined is 3,06,470, of whom 1,72,357 live in the Assigned Tract made up of 1,24,435 Indians and something under 10,000 including the British troops 1300 and 9678 Europeans and Anglo-Indians. The Cantonment area which originally was an assignment only for military purposes has thus come to assume the character of an Anglo-Indian colony attracting settlers even from distant parts of India on account of the salubrity of its climate and the facilities it affords for the education of Anglo-Indian children. In the light of the facts summarised here, the people of Mysore regard that the restitution of the civil and criminal jurisdiction over the Assigned Tract is an independent issue and its solution need not wait till the Mysore State becomes a partner in the Federation of India.



# APPENDIX.

## H. H. the Maharaja's trip to Europe.

(The information contained in the account given below has been obtained through the courtesy of the proprietor of the 'TAI NADU', an enterprising Kannda daily newspaper of Bangalore.)

For sometime past, His Highness Krishnaraja Wodeyar IV had been in somewhat indifferent health and when it was announced that he had resolved to visit England and some other countries of Europe to improve his health, His Highness' subjects were pleased to hear the news. His Highness the Maharaja, His Highness the Yuvaraja, Sir Mirza Ismail the Dewan and the party accompanying them embarked on board the P. & O. Steamer 'RANPURA' and left Bombay on the 27th June 1936. At Aden which was reached on the 6th July, the Maharaja visited the town in company with Sir Mirza Ismail, Mr. Sadeg Z. Shah, Assistant Secretary and Major Nabi Khan, Aide-Camp, and saw all the sights to be seen there. Marseilles was reached on the 10th July.

While on boardship, His Highness moved freely with the passengers and is stated to have had a comfortable voyage.

From Marseilles London was reached on the 16th July after a stay of four days at Paris. His Highness was accorded a hearty reception when he alighted at the Victoria Railway Station in London. Col. Neil was present on the platform as the representative of the India Office. At the Railway Station more than one hundred and fifty students of Southern India, including a large number from Mysore, also greeted the Maharaja. While in London, the Maharaja had accommodation in Dorchester Hotel in special rooms set apart for his use. The others who were with the Maharaja in this hotel were the Yuvaraja, Sir Mirza Ismail, Major Nabi Khan, Sadeg Z. Shah, Srikantharaja Urs and Dr. Robinson. During his stay in London, His Highness received visits from many of his old acquaintances and friends whom he knew in India.

as well as from many distinguished men of England. Among the visitors were Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, the Marquis of Zetland, Viscount Halifax, Mr. Wedgewood Benn and the Marquis of Willingdon.

On the 22nd July the Maharaja had an interview with His Majesty the King in the Buckingham Palace and with the Dowager Queen Mary on the 27th in the same place.

The daily programme of His Highness did not differ much from what it was in his own country. He got up at five in the morning and took a walk in the Hyde Park. On the 29th of the same month His Highness held a reception at which several of the leading men and women of London were present.

The annual ceremony of what is known as Upakarma or sacred thread-wearing happened to fall on the 3rd August and this ceremony was performed on the banks of the Thames river at Maidenhead.

A whole-time special train was engaged for His Highness' visit to the important places in England and Scotland. This train provided all the necessary conveniences for His Highness and he spent his time in the special train, only going out when visiting places in a motor car. His Highness also visited several of the rural places in the country.

On the 19th August His Highness flew from the Croydon Aerodrome to Berlin. The Dewan accompanied him. The Maharaja reached Budapest by train on the 25th. Some of the other places visited on the continent were Vienna, Lasaunne, Zurich. A visit was also paid to the Riviera. The Maharaja, the Yuvaraja and the party embarked on board ship Strathmore on the 19th September and are expected to reach Bombay on the 30th September. It has been a matter of rejoicing to the people of Mysore to know that His Highness' health has greatly improved.

"The Times of London" published editorially the following article on the visit of the Maharaja in its issue of the 16th July 1936. "No London season passes without the presence of a



number of Indian Princes, some of them regular visitors but a welcome precedent is set to-day by the arrival of the Maharaja of Mysore. In any circumstances a first visit to these shores from the head of so great and progressive a State would be an outstanding event; and its interest is enhanced by the high personal esteem in which His Highness is held among all who have come to know him. The 'MODEL STATE' as it is called, approximates more nearly than any other to the British Provinces in its conception of good government; nor is any Indian ruler held in more universal esteem than Sir Krishnaraja Wodeyar, who succeeded when a boy of eleven, more than forty years ago. He combines with the strictest Hindu orthodoxy a delight in athletic sport and intellectual interests which will have full scope in a country of which he has heard and read so much but now sees for the first time. Interpretations of his visit as directly concerned with the special problems of Mysore in relation to Federation—and in particular that of the subsidy—have no foundation at all. After severe family bereavement and in indifferent health, His Highness comes to take a much-needed holiday. He is accompanied by, and places implicit trust in, Sir Mirza Ismail, his Dewan for the past ten years, who represented him at the successive Round Table Conferences and made valuable contributions to the shaping of the Federal scheme. While the Maharaja will be content to leave political matters in Sir Mirza's hands, he will no doubt take the opportunity to meet some of the outstanding figures in our public life. But his stay will necessarily be short, for it is difficult to think of him as absent from the famous celebrations of the Dasara..... It is at this annual festival in October that expression is given to the reverence and affection in which His Highness is held by his six and a half million subjects of varying race and creed."

Sir William Barton, a former British Resident at the court of Mysore, in the 'TIMES' issue of the same date contributed an account of what he knew of Mysore and its Ruler:—"Opinions of the political value of the Princes in the coming Indian Federation differ, but if the great Hindu Prince, the Maharaja of Mysore,

whom London welcomes for the first time to-day, be representative, the Indian States should be the backbone of the future Government. Few Indian Princes have more friends in England than this Maharaja, a man renowned for his hospitality as his country is famed for its fine buildings and majestic landscape. Its Hindu temples are gems of the classic period, and any land might be proud of its engineering works. It is a delightful surprise that the Maharaja has been able to surmount the difficulties that Hindu orthodoxy places in the way of foreign travel and come to England, the first ruling Prince of Mysore to cross the ocean. His visit is of conspicuous importance. Mysore stands next in population and revenue to the great State of the Nizam of Hyderabad. The accession of the Princes to the new Federation is the question of the hour in India, and it is a real advantage that the Prince who will send the second strongest contingent to the Federal Assembly should meet British statesmen, be received at the India Office, and see something at first hand of the Empire which he has so long and loyally supported.

“The Ruling Family of Mysore traces its origin to a princely house in Kathaiwar of Rajput extraction. Its tutelary deity, the goddess Chamundi, watches over its destinies from a mountain that overshadows the Maharaja’s capital. Born 52 years ago, the Maharaja succeeded his father when still a child. He was brought up under the supervision of British tutors and in 1902 invested with ruling powers by Lord Curzon. He is a good all-round sportsman, a keen rider, has a cultivated taste for Western music, is a student of Sanskrit, and a great patron of the Brahmins. Strictly orthodox, he does not appear at table with his guests. A great gentleman in every way, he shines equally as a ruler and a statesman. Although Mysore had a good start under British administration from 1831 to 1881, it owes its predominance among the States of India mainly to the efforts of the Maharaja during his 30 years of rule. The country is chiefly agricultural and the Maharaja has always kept the interests of the peasantry in the forefront, winning the loyal affection of the countryside. The administration is indeed racy of the soil.

“The identification of the Prince with his people is strikingly demonstrated at the great national festival of the Dasara, which year after year is the occasion of an enthusiastic display of loyalty from all classes of His Highness' subjects.”



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